

# *The* PRODUCER

Vol. X

DENVER, COLORADO

No. 11



**APRIL 1929**

*Official Organ of the*  
AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK  
ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

# Spring-Time! Range-Time!

AT THIS season of the year, when a young man's fancy turns to love, as the poets say, so does a cattleman's thoughts turn to the restocking of his range and shaping things up in general for a prospective successful season.

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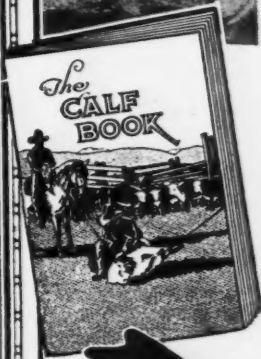
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The market for salted meats, or meats otherwise preserved, is distinctly limited. If fresh meats could not be shipped, to-day, the livestock grower's market would shrink disastrously. For he would only be able to sell to nearby communities, or, if he shipped his stock "on the hoof" to distant points, the price of the meat would be prohibitive.

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*Edson White*  
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# THE PRODUCER

## THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MONTHLY

Volume X

DENVER, COLORADO, APRIL, 1929

Number 11

## Tuberculosis Eradication in Live Stock

BY RUDOLF A. CLEMEN

*Associate Director, Armour's Live Stock Bureau, Chicago, Illinois*

**I**N A RECENT ANALYSIS of the causes of tuberculosis, by Dr. D. C. Lockhead, of Rochester, Minnesota, before the thirty-second annual meeting of the United States Live Stock Sanitary Association, attention was directed to the importance of tuberculosis in live stock, and it was pointed out that transmissibility of bovine tuberculosis to the human is a proved scientific fact. Dr. Lockhead declared that the ingestion of raw milk from tuberculous cows accounts for nearly all human tuberculosis, except pulmonary. Since this is so, tuberculosis in live stock is a problem which must be solved for the benefit of human beings, if not for the live stock itself.

Tuberculosis affects all species of domestic mammals, although with different degrees of intensity and frequency. Cattle and swine furnish the greatest number of cases. The disease is further encountered in the horse, sheep, and goat, but is relatively rare in those animals in the United States. Again, dogs and cats are susceptible to it.

### Symptoms of Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis is a disease which often gives no indication of its presence by external symptoms. Yet persons skilled and experienced in dealing with the disease among animals frequently are able to detect abnormal conditions which indicate tuberculosis. A general run-down condition, accompanied by a cough, is often considered to be an indication of tuberculosis, but is not a conclusive symptom. When tuberculosis is suspected, the tuberculin test should be applied.

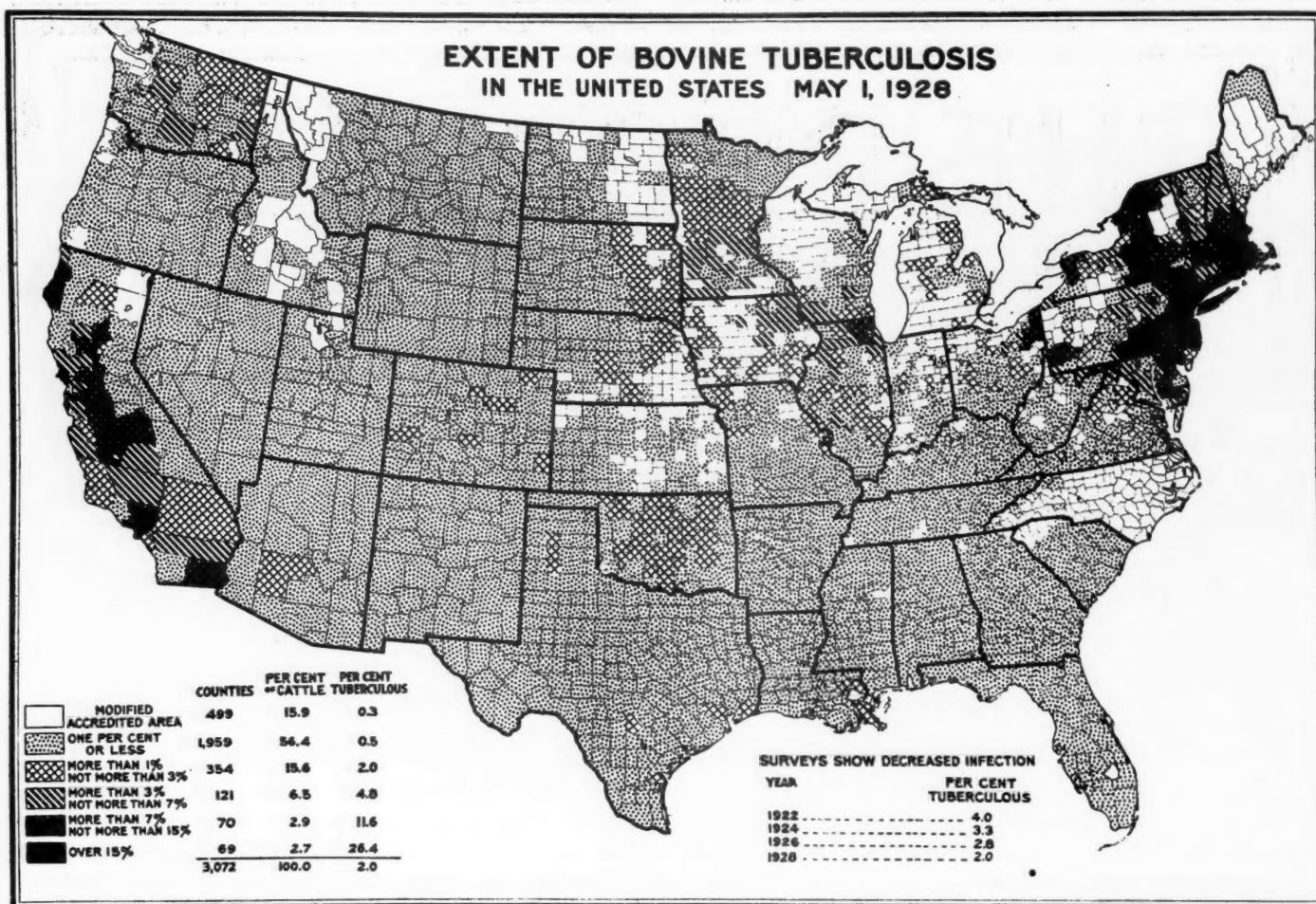
As the disease often involves parts of the body, an examination of such glands as can be felt in the

living animal is sometimes helpful in diagnosing it. The glands of the throat, udder, and point of the shoulder often present an abnormal condition, such as an enlargement or hardening. Animals affected with tuberculosis in advanced stages often show a "staring" coat and a generally unthrifty condition. When the throat glands of an animal are affected, it often holds its head in an abnormal position, in order to relieve the pressure which causes difficult breathing. Increased respiration is often noted when the lungs or lymphatic glands of the thoracic cavity are affected. When some of the glands of that cavity are extensively diseased, the animal often develops bloat. Diarrhea is often evident in some cases in which infection has extended to the abdominal cavity. The symptoms mentioned, though typical, must not always be expected when animals are tuberculous. Animals that are extensively diseased are often in apparently perfect physical condition.

### Different Kinds of Tuberculosis

While several investigators had earlier observed a relationship between human and bovine tuberculosis, it was not until the end of the eighteenth century that the idea started to gain ground. In the early part of the nineteenth century a number of prominent investigators contended that pulmonary tuberculosis in cattle and in men was identical.

In 1865 Villemin demonstrated that tuberculosis could be transmitted from man to animal and from animal to animal by the inoculation of emulsified tubercles. This definitely proved the infectiousness of the malady, and also established the relationship



between the disease in man and the lower animals. In 1882 Koch demonstrated the organism in cases of tuberculosis cultivated in pure culture, reproduced the disease with rich pure culture, and again recovered the organism. In 1890 Theobald Smith established certain differences between the human and bovine species of the germ. For example, the bovine bacillus is often shorter, plumper, and stains more uniformly than the human bacillus, which is ordinarily club-shaped, irregular, and stains with interrupted markings. These characteristics are not sufficiently distinctive to distinguish one type from the other.

The essential difference lies in the fact that the human type is very pathogenic for man and guinea-pigs, but has little pathogenicity for cattle, rabbits, and other animals. On the other hand, the bovine type is very pathogenic for almost all mammalian animals except man. It is pathogenic for man, but less so than the human bacillus.

#### Post-Mortem Appearances

Animals affected with tuberculosis may show the effects of the disease in almost any part of the body. In advanced cases the lesions are easily found, but when the disease is of recent origin, or if a slightly diseased area has been encapsulated or closed up, it is often very difficult to find evidence of the disease.

Lesions in advanced cases generally appear as nodules or lumps, which are tubercles formed as a result of the disease. These lumps may be found in great numbers in the lungs and abdominal organs. The lesions are of various sizes and may contain pus, either soft or hard; many times it is gritty. Tubercles are often found in various numbers attached to the walls of the thoracic and abdominal cavities. Lesions of the disease also occur in the lungs, liver, and spleen. The lymph glands are usually affected, and, when cut into, show diseased areas characteristic of tuberculosis.

Lesions of the disease may be found also in the skin and in or on the bones. In animals only slightly diseased, the lesion may be hidden, so that it is impossible for even a person skilled in post-mortem work to find it. A microscopic examination of the lymphatic glands or other tissues often reveals the presence of tubercle bacilli when no lesions can be seen by the naked eye—a condition showing that the disease is just starting.

#### Progress in Eradication Campaign

That progress has been made in the eradication of bovine tuberculosis can be seen from the accompanying map, issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry. It shows the effect of the tuberculosis-eradication movement in this country to be as follows:



PER CENT OF CATTLE TESTED WHICH WERE  
TUBERCULOUS

Year	Per Cent
1922.....	4.0
1924.....	3.3
1926.....	2.8
1928.....	2.0

This table indicates that bovine tuberculosis has apparently been reduced one-half through an aggressive campaign of eradication conducted by federal, state, and county authorities who have co-operated with cattle-owners over the past decade. A feature of the map is the large increase in the white area. This represents the counties which have practically eradicated the disease. The latest survey shows that areas heavily infected with bovine tuberculosis contain slightly less than 6 per cent of the cattle in the United States. In many of these areas, moreover, vigorous campaigns of eradication are being carried on.

#### How Eradication Movement Started

The present system of federal meat inspection was begun in the year 1906, in accordance with an act of Congress. It is the most exacting system of meat inspection maintained by any government, and it not only is a safeguard to public health, but also serves as a barometer of the disease situation in herds and flocks on the farms of the United States. It was through the operation of this system at stock-yard and packing-plant centers that there was noted the gradual increase in the number of cattle and hogs condemned for tuberculosis. This condition was felt to require action, and the Chicago Live Stock Exchange initiated an organized system for the purpose of lessening the destructiveness of this contagious disease. A committee was formed to carry out the plan, known as the Sanitary Committee of the National Live Stock Exchange.

As a result of very effective work, Congress, in 1918, appropriated \$500,000 for the payment of indemnity to farmers on reactor cattle slaughtered, and for necessary operating expenses. In appropriating this sum, Congress made it conditional upon the co-operation of state legislatures, which practically unanimously responded with the enactment of legislation to meet the requirements of the federal law. Each succeeding year increased appropriations have been made for this work. At the present time the federal appropriation is \$6,000,000 and the state appropriations total \$13,000,000. Of these amounts, more than 80 per cent is used for indemnity to reimburse in part owners of reactor cattle which are slaughtered. Since the work began, the federal government has spent \$29,750,000 and the states \$68,398,000, or a total of almost a hundred million dollars. The work is carried on through the co-operation of the Tuberculosis Eradication Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry and eight live-stock commissioners at the

most important markets, who are appointed by the local committees. These men give their entire time to the work and are under the supervision of a live-stock commissioner whose headquarters are at Chicago.

All in all, since the campaign on eradication started, there has been tested almost our entire cattle population for any one year. Practically all pure-bred herds are now free from tuberculosis, and more than half of the grade breeding cattle now on our farms have been tested. The co-ordination of the activities of the exchanges was effected in 1921.

#### Packers Pay Premium on Accredited Hogs

In 1922 some of the packers began the payment of a premium of 10 cents per cwt. above the market price on hogs bred and fed in counties which had been made practically free from bovine tuberculosis and are officially designated as "modified accredited areas." At the time this practice was initiated there were no accredited counties, but plans had been formulated for so-called county area testing. At the present time premium money amounting to \$1,500,000 per year is being paid, which includes the payments by all of the larger packers and a great many of the smaller ones.

The premium plan was started to stimulate the circulation of petitions and the securing of county appropriations for the cleaning-up of entire counties throughout the country. It has served as a tremendous stimulation in all the hog-producing states. For example, Iowa had no funds whatever for tuberculosis eradication during the year 1918; yet the losses to cattle- and hog-producers in that state caused by tuberculosis were very large. Today Iowa has 44 accredited counties, and 25 more where area testing is in progress, out of a total of 99 counties in the state. Of the other states which have taken active part in this campaign, Michigan has 59 accredited counties, Wisconsin 36, Ohio 29, Indiana 51, Illinois 38, Minnesota 23, North Dakota 30, South Dakota 4, Nebraska 31, Kansas 35, and Missouri 9. There was a total of 639 accredited counties in the nation on January 1, 1929.

#### Benefits to Producers from Paying Premiums

When the premium on hogs was first paid, the information then available was that at least 90 per cent of tuberculosis in swine came from cattle. This is true only in so far as condemnations of carcasses are concerned. After it was found that there is still a large number of retentions (slight cases) among hogs from accredited counties, investigations were made by some of the state universities and agricultural colleges, which show conclusively that a large proportion of those slight cases which cause heads to be condemned are the avian type of tuberculosis, infected through the common practice of permitting hogs to mingle with poultry on the farm.

That the campaign to eliminate tuberculosis in



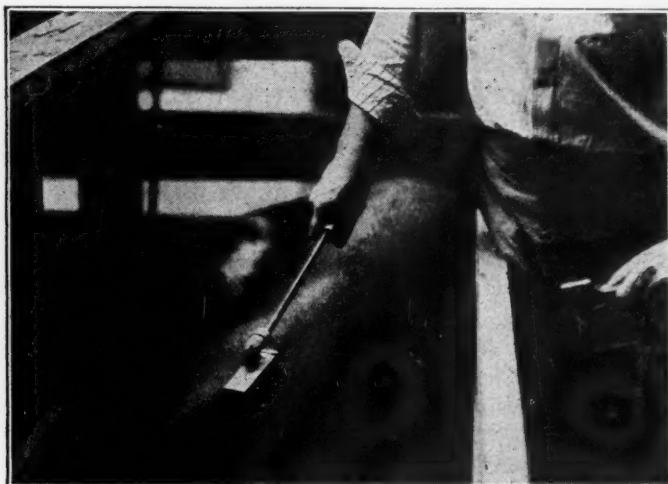
cattle has gone forward rapidly and decisively is indicated by the accompanying table, which shows a decrease in cattle retained for tuberculosis. With a total of 1,556,215 reactors slaughtered since the campaign started, it necessarily has removed the cause of much of the tuberculosis in all cattle, including steers:

#### NUMBER CATTLE TESTED AND PER CENT REACTING

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	No. Cattle Tested	Number Reactors	Per Cent Reactors
1918.....	134,143	6,544	4.9
1919.....	329,878	13,528	4.9
1920.....	700,670	28,709	4.1
1921.....	1,366,358	53,768	3.9
1922.....	2,384,236	82,569	3.5
1923.....	3,460,849	113,844	3.3
1924.....	5,312,364	171,559	3.2
1925.....	7,000,028	214,419	3.1
1926.....	8,650,780	323,084	3.7
1927.....	9,700,176	285,361	2.9
1928.....	11,281,490	262,113	2.3
Totals.....	50,341,072	1,556,215	3.1

During the year ending May 1, 1928, the average appraised value of cattle condemned because of tuberculosis was \$109.81. The combined value of federal and state indemnity and salvage was \$85.48. This figure is within \$25 of the appraised value, and represents the amount that the owner received for the average diseased animal. This money is commonly used toward the purchase of healthy stock—usually of better quality than that condemned.

This work of tuberculosis eradication has progressed to such an extent that it can be safely declared



TATTOOING HOGS IN FRONT OF SHOULDER-BLADE

that any herd of cattle or group of herds may be maintained free from bovine-tuberculosis infection, provided the proper care is taken to prevent infection. During the past year entire counties have been retested after a lapse of three years, and the result was that only slight infection was disclosed. As the work progresses, it will be possible to reduce the dan-

ger of reinfection, due to wider areas made free of the disease.

In a number of states more than two-thirds of the counties are accredited, or in process of being accredited, and legislation is under consideration to compel



MARKINGS SHOWING CLEARLY ON SLAUGHTERED HOGS

the remaining counties to clean up. Indiana has a law whereby the state has authority to cause any county to clean up, even though no action has been taken by that county, if such a county is adjoined on two sides by accredited counties or those in process.

#### Effective Method of Tracing Tuberculous Hogs

Already an effective system has been developed as a result of the study for the identification of tuberculosis in hogs. Various reasons have combined to put

this system into operation during the past year. For ten years or more the packing industry has been co-operating with official and private agencies in the eradication of tuberculosis. Many packers have made direct annual appropriations for educational work in tuberculosis eradication. This was done in the hope of eventually wiping out the disease, as it was then believed that the bulk of the infection was of bovine origin. Steers showed less infection than other cattle, as they were generally slaughtered at an early age. But infection in the cattle and hogs marketed resulted in heavy losses through condemnations.

With a view to accomplishing proper results, the Sanitary Committee approved and authorized a system of tattooing recommended by the live-stock commissioners, which became effective July 1, 1928, whereby hogs from accredited counties, and therefore eligible for a 10-cent premium, before shipment must be tattooed by code letters in the skin, in such a way as to make it possible to identify them on the killing-floor, and to determine the name and address of the producer. The use of this tattooing system has grown much more rapidly than was anticipated. Although some do not wish to go to the trouble of tattooing their hogs for the extra 10 cents per cwt., a very large number are doing it, not only for the extra price received, but also because they really wish to know whether or not their hogs have tuberculosis.

After the hogs have been killed and the hair taken off at the packing-house, the letters and numerals show clearly on the skin in the form of black dots. This mark can be traced to the certificate bearing a like mark, and in that way the point of origin of the hog can be determined definitely if there is need to follow it further.

Packers are co-operating with the live-stock commissioners in keeping records of killing tests on hogs from accredited counties, which are compared with those of non-accredited counties. The average at all markets shows that the condemnations of carcasses for tuberculosis are approximately 80 per cent less, and the retentions 33 per cent less, in the hogs from accredited counties.

#### **Tuberculosis Campaign a Success**

The campaign against tuberculosis in live stock started in a small way by raising funds at the market centers for promotional and educational activities, and has developed into a great national project which has the full indorsement of Congress, the various state legislatures, health officers, and every other organization that has at heart the welfare of the nation and its people. It has grown from an undertaking having for its purpose the reduction of losses to the live-stock industry into a great national crusade for the betterment of human health. Statistics from the

Bureau of Public Health Service in Washington show a marked decline in the prevalence of human tuberculosis during the past ten years. Unquestionably the slaughtering of a large number of tuberculous cows which have been supplying milk for the public has been an important factor in this decline.

#### **EXTRACTS FROM ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT L. C. BRITE AT SAN FRANCISCO**

THE PAST YEAR, on the whole, was a good one for the cattleman. Prices continued relatively high, and most of those engaged in the industry can show something for their labors. This is in welcome contrast to the state of affairs existing in previous years, and has fortified that spirit of optimism which is supposed to be characteristic of the cowman.

Herds have been depleted to some extent, it is true, by favorable selling conditions, but are as yet sufficient to take care of consumer demand. No one has been compelled to go without beef who has had the price to pay for it. As for the price, it is no higher than that of most other things which the consumer must buy. It should be remembered that during all the years of depression the public had access to beef selling far below cost of production. As a consequence, they were "spoiled"—imagining that such conditions were to be permanent. Now that the producer is again reaping a modicum of reward for his labor, it is but natural that some dissatisfaction should be manifested, especially in the large industrial centers. But this effect, I feel certain, is only temporary. No rational person would expect the food-producer to continue to operate at a loss. The history of the abortive "Boston beef boycott" of last year proves that it is not easy to stampede any considerable segment of our people by unfounded charges. Besides, beef is too vital an ingredient in our national dietary to be permanently replaced by any other article of food. When it is realized that the higher price plane is here to stay, consumers will settle down to a state of acquiescence, such curtailment as has taken place will disappear, and consumption will gravitate toward its natural level as determined solely by the people's appetite.

Concerning the future, it must be borne in mind, too, that, with the prospect of permanently remunerative prices, founded on stable economic conditions, and with the threat of competitive importation of cheaper beef from abroad removed by unequivocal government action, there is no reason why cattle production in this country should not tend to increase from now on, keeping pace with our growing population. When the day comes that we ourselves are no longer able to meet the demand of our people for beef at a fair figure, and not until then, the question of throwing open our ports to the foreigner will arise. Until that time our home markets should be preserved for our home producers.

#### **The Tariff**

At last there appears to be promise of securing at the hands of Congress the same consideration of live stock and its products in the matter of tariff protection that has been bestowed on the output of manufacturing industries. Such equality of treatment is a principle for which this association has ceaselessly contended. To leave the live-stock industry unprotected, or insufficiently protected, against competition from countries whose cost of production is materially lower than our own, at the same time that manufactured articles, many of which the stockman has to buy, are given the benefit



of a prohibitive tariff, is unjust and un-American. We live-stock men protest against being treated as stepchildren in our economic household. A tariff wall, to be justifiable, should include all. . . .

A committee representing this association has been in Washington attending hearings before the Ways and Means Committee of the House, which has charge of the preparation of the new tariff bill. They pleaded for an import duty on hides which will give full protection to our industry—a rate of not less than 6 cents a pound on green and 15 cents a pound on dry hides, as demanded in resolutions passed at previous conventions. When it is recalled that we have been importing around 300,000,000 pounds of cattle hides and calf skins annually, it will be understood that an increase of the amount of the tariff in the price which the domestic breeder receives for his animals would mean a not inconsiderable addition to his income.

Besides this duty on hides, we should have an increase in the duties on live stock and on dressed meats. The arguments in favor of such an increase were presented before the committee. The rate on live cattle is now 1½ and 2 cents a pound, according to whether they weigh less or more than 1,050 pounds. On beef and veal it is 3 cents a pound. These rates are not high enough to equalize the differences in production costs. During 1928, 535,000 head of cattle from foreign countries—principally from Canada—were sold at our markets. Of dressed beef we are importing large and growing quantities. In 1928, 66,789,000 pounds of fresh and cured beef and veal were brought in, besides 55,156,000 pounds of canned meats—the latter mainly from South America. This is not right. Our home producers are entitled to this trade. Tariff is a protection only to the extent that it excludes foreign competition. Who would deny that our western ranges are capable of breeding all the stock cattle needed in the United States, and that there would be no dearth of domestic canner material if our own resources were exploited?

#### Sanitary Meat Embargo

At present we are protected against imports of fresh meats from South America by the foot-and-mouth-disease embargo. But it cannot be sufficiently stressed that this is a slender reed on which to lean for support. The moment Argentina, or any of the other countries against which this administrative order is effective, succeeds in showing a clean bill of health, the order has got to be repealed, as far as that country is concerned. It is purely a sanitary measure, and as such of a temporary character. While it undoubtedly has been of untold benefit to our live-stock industry by guarding us against the introduction of a scourge with which we in the past have had sufficient experience to make us dread the thought of a recurrence, it behooves us to prepare for our defense by erecting a permanent barrier against the flood of meat imports with which we should be swamped the moment this ban was removed. . . .

#### Mexican Immigration

Among other legislative matters in which this association is concerned is the proposal for the restriction of Mexican immigration. Bills now before Congress would limit the number of Mexican laborers to be admitted into the United States to 1,500 annually, against the 60,000 or so that have been coming in of late years. This number is wholly inadequate for the needs of our ranches and other agricultural pursuits. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine what we in the Southwest would do if this supply of workers were shut off.

The Mexican is a peaceful and willing laborer who stays

by himself and gives little trouble as long as he is treated fairly. He does not compete with our own workmen, who refuse to consider most of the kinds of work for which the Mexican is hired. He has no social aspirations, presents no problem of unassimilability, and is content to remain a foreigner—a migrant element, going when and where he is needed, and having no higher wish than to spend his earnings, and as much of his life as he can manage, in his native land. . . .

#### Capper-Hope Bill

The so-called Capper-Hope bill for the suppression, or restriction, of direct marketing is again before Congress. So much has been said about this measure that it seems unnecessary again to review it. It is called by its sponsors a bill "to relieve an economic injustice to the producer." The "injustice" from which the producer is supposed to be suffering is the choice to dispose of his property as he sees fit. If, in the evolution of marketing processes, methods are discovered that, either in fact or in theory, represent a saving to the man with goods to sell, why should he be deprived of the means of availing himself of them? In case they fail to produce the results expected, can he not be depended upon to find out for himself? A false economy will not long remain undisclosed. In the interest of freedom of action alone, this association opposes any such attempt at dictating to the shipper. Let each marketing method stand or fall on its own merit. The shortening of the route from producer to slaughter-house, as evidenced by the success of the Western Cattle Marketing Association, is one of the economies in our distribution problem which promise the most substantial results. . . .

#### Omaha Commission-Rate Decision

A matter of importance to every live-stock man is the decision of the federal court in the Omaha commission-rate case. As you will recall, the live-stock exchange of that city had filed a new schedule of charges, considerably advancing that in force. The Secretary of Agriculture suspended the schedule, ordered hearings held, and on the basis of these published a new set of rates, reducing, according to Secretary Tomlinson's estimate, those of the commission men by about 20 per cent. The commission men applied to the court for an injunction, which was granted. A "special master" was appointed to make an examination and submit his recommendations. The master reported in July last, finding that part of the Packers and Stock-Yards Act which conferred on the secretary power to determine commission rates unconstitutional, declaring the rates in question, as fixed by the secretary, confiscatory, and recommending that the injunction be made permanent.

It was generally expected that the District Court would follow the master's recommendations, but the hope was entertained that the Supreme Court, on appeal, would refuse to sustain the verdict. The trend of late opinions by our highest tribunal bears out this presumption. In December, however, the District Court rejected the master's findings. "Regulation is the daughter of necessity," says the opinion. "When open competition is lacking, and monopolistic combination would fix its own price, necessity arises. If regulation of marketing practice is permissible, then the right to regulate commissions is also implied."

This decision is sound, and I have no doubt that it will be upheld. As for the secretary's rates being confiscatory, it is enough to point to the fact that they were determined only after the most exhaustive analysis of all the evidence submitted by both sides to the case. Commission men, our agents, are entitled to a fair remuneration for their services—no more.



If there are too many of them for each to make what he considers a fair living, then the remedy is, not to advance the rates, but to cut down their number. The shipper, who is not consulted as to the rates which he is to pay, cannot be expected without protest to submit to the imposition of any charge deemed necessary to support all those who may be attracted to the field.

Several other cases of commission and stock-yard charges have been held in abeyance, awaiting the outcome of this. If the decision of the Supreme Court is favorable, these cases can be proceeded with, and we shall eventually have a system established of reasonable and just rates throughout the country.

It is regrettable that Tomlinson could not have lived to read this opinion. It was one of the last cases in which he testified, and his calm, balanced, well-considered testimony, we may take it, carried considerable weight with the court.

#### Boycott of Co-operatives

It is depressing to note the recrudescence of boycott trouble at the Omaha market. The hope of the Secretary of Agriculture that the commission men had been taught their lesson and in future would be "good" has not been redeemed. Further hearings have been held, and more drastic action may be looked for. It is in cases such as this and the commission-rate litigation—backed, if necessary, by the courts—that the Packers and Stock-Yards Act justifies itself. Its weapons should be sharpened, and the legality of its proceedings placed beyond all possible doubt.

It is a matter of surprise that the old-line commission men cannot make up their minds to accept the situation as it is developing itself. They must realize that such evidence of ill-will and spite against co-operatives, and all others who are not members of their own close fraternity, can only tend to cause irritation, and eventually is bound to injure their own interests. Co-operative shippers' and selling organizations have come to stay and cannot be "frozen out." To work with them in tolerance and harmony, competing with them in quality of service and fairness of cost, seems a far better way to keep the hold on the loyalty of the men who intrust them with their trade than discrimination and petty annoyances. . . .

#### Necessity of Organization

The association during the past year has enjoyed the loyal support of its members. It is essential that this support be continued and, if possible, extended. To carry on its work satisfactorily, the association must have the necessary backing. Irksome as it is always to be appealing for funds, it is clear that without such we should get nowhere. There are a multitude of matters involving our industry that call for continued outlay. No sooner is one issue settled than another crops up. In the past we have suffered from the meagerness of our resources. Always we have felt that more could have been accomplished had we had more liberal means at our disposal. Now that our industry is working itself out of the slough, and to keep it out, let each one of us contribute liberally and spontaneously to the extent of his ability. Success will be measured by the depth of our money-box.

#### Cuba to Export Beef

Cuba, for years a large importer of meat, has now begun to export that commodity. A shipment of beef, killed and dressed by an American firm, arrived from the island in December at a Florida port. This consignment, it is said, will be followed by others.

## THE COWBOY

BY L. C. BRITTE

Marfa, Texas

THE TERM "COWBOY" brings to the mind of the average tenderfoot a rather rough character, arrayed in a pair of leggins, a broad-brimmed hat, boots and spurs, and a big red bandana handkerchief worn around his neck—a character that is not especially fitted for any vocation, except that of movie actor.

In spite of these false impressions, the fact is evident that it requires more skill and efficiency to qualify as a modern, up-to-date cowboy than for any other occupation in the known world.

The cowboy is familiar with the nature and instinct of live stock. He knows how to handle and care for the herd—how to round up, cut, and separate cattle; knows how to circle and quiet a stampeded herd. He can discern between excellence of quality and breeding and the inferiority of the scrub. By observation, he knows when range cattle are on the mend or decline. He knows how to brand—just where the brand should be placed, how it should be made, and how deep to burn to avoid blotching. He knows how to select old cows and culls that should be marketed.

He knows that a bronco horse should be given slack when his forefeet leave the ground, and should be ridden with a hackamore until he learns the rein. His qualifications and attainments are innumerable.

Besides being an expert in handling horses and cattle, he must be a blacksmith, competent to shoe horses, shape running-irons, and do general repair work. He is necessarily a butcher, and can slaughter a calf and cut it into steaks and roasts. He is a cobbler, and can half-sole boots, and mend saddles and harness. He is a carpenter, and can saw to a line and drive a nail straight. He is a botanist, and is familiar with the nutritious grasses and weeds that fatten, and also knows the poisonous plants. He is a mechanical engineer, and is competent to repair automobiles, trucks, mowing-machines, hay-balers, windmills, and pumps. He is a cook, and knows enough to boil beans until the bacon can be cut with a spoon. He is a doctor and surgeon, and can treat a case of botts or colic in horses, or cure a case of screw-worms or bloat in cattle; is also familiar with the effects of calomel, salts, castor oil, liniments, and pills.

He is a lightning calculator—else how could he dodge the limbs of mesquite and catclaw, as he plunges his horse at break-neck speed through jungles and underbrush similar to those of southern Texas? He is an athlete, and, when forced to run a race with an enraged cow to see which can reach the fence first, he always does his best.

Nothing is more amusing than to watch a tenderfoot trying to pass as a cowboy. His first impulse is to don the accustomed attire; but when asked to "bust" a bronco, bulldog a calf, or shoe a horse, the fun begins.

The cowboy must not only have skill and efficiency, but endurance. He works twelve hours more often than eight, and sometimes eighteen, as the occasion demands. Quite frequently he is compelled to miss his noonday meal. His duty demands that he face all kinds of weather. Rain, hail, sleet, or snow does not cause him to falter, but, like the Good Shepherd, he responds to duty.

It is no wonder that Roosevelt's regiment of "Rough Riders," made up, as it was, of cowboys, hardened to the work on the range, accustomed to self-denial and all kinds of hardships—it is no wonder that they forged to the front and made a world-famous record by their endurance, loyalty, and bravery.

## SURVEYING THE CATTLE FIELD

BY JAMES E. POOLE

ONE PECULIAR AND INERADICABLE PHASE of human psychology is the belief that present conditions are permanent, whereas they are always more or less ephemeral—using that word in its broad, rather than overnight, sense. Not long since an acquaintance, who sold a load of big steers at \$18 last September, promptly replacing them at \$15, on the theory that \$20 was in sight, cleaned up his winter operations on a \$13 average. "Why did you fill up with big cattle, instead of spreading the risk over varied weights?" I asked. "Hell! These big cattle were the kind they wanted when I put them in," he replied.

Realization that production follows price is essential. In making calculations, the length of the production cycle must be reckoned with. Surplus potato or tobacco production may be accomplished in a single season; a hog surplus requires two or three years, sheep more, and cattle still longer. This rule does not apply to cattle-feeding, however, as an excess supply of fed steers may be created within ninety to a hundred days, if replacement is possible. It is the old story of human gregariousness, or running with the crowd. Two cheap hog crops insure breeding restriction and higher prices.

Present cattle conditions constitute an open secret among cattlemen. Writers on the subject are not "in the know." Not long ago I listened to the reading of a paper concerning cattle supply by a packer who, in all probability, had depended on his secretary for compilation. On a surface basis, the arguments contained therein were logical. The cattle industry had been liquidated to the dregs; short production insured high prices, which in turn insured increased production; but the basic fact that a large percentage of the commercial breeding herds in the trans-Missouri area are on an over-age basis was ignored. On these herds and their annual increase depends the beef supply of the nation, and as an over-age cow is an unsafe breeding proposition, it is logical to assume that they must go to the butcher in considerable numbers this year, in 1930, and in 1931. Meanwhile, unless heifers are conserved for replacement purposes, rapid rehabilitation will be impossible. As feeders are clamorous for calves of both sexes, and early-matured beef is possible, such conservation of heifer calves is doubtful. This appears to be the core of the present and impending cattle situation. It has had a parallel in lamb production, several years having been consumed in cleaning up aged western ewes, while during that period high prices attracted ewe lambs to the shambles, either direct from pastures or by way of the feed-lot. And it must be remembered that a ewe band may be recruited with more facility than a cow herd, as the annual increase is larger in the case of lambs than in calves.

Not a scrap of intelligible handwriting on the wall portends rapid recuperation of the beef-cattle industry. This does not imply even semi-famine, but it does mean that the relative positions of the feeder and the breeder over a long period have been changed. The owner of a cow, capable of raising a good calf, with a place to keep her, has the edge over the feeder and the pastureman. No actual cattle shortage may exist or impend, but that plenitude does not prevail at this moment is a statement not open to successful contradiction. Ask the pastureman in quest of cattle to utilize his grass during the coming season, or the feeder anxious to refill his feed-lot, about it, and you will garner an earful of grief. The feeder who last fall incautiously stowed away steers of the type and weight which the trade cannot use in considerable numbers made a mistake; and you may be convinced that, temporarily at least, a beef surplus is kicking around the market. But that surplus

is due to disappear, its temporary existence having been due to a combination of cupidity and bad judgment on the part of feeders. The bald and indisputable fact is that the long period of commercial-cattle plenitude, dating back to the seventies of the last century, has disappeared—probably for all time. Another equally bald fact is that beef consumption of 80 pounds per capita will never recur, because consumption is synonymous with production, and mass production is a thing of the past. Beef consumption in 1928 was but slightly in excess of 50 pounds, and before the turn of the tide is reached may decline another ten pounds. If foreign beef can be excluded from this market, either by tariff, embargo, or other means, the strong strategic position of the cattle-breeder is indisputable; that of the feeder is equally weak.

Conservation of heifers will be logical. Penalty for failure means getting out of the cattle business, but feeders will be constantly clamorous for calves, and willing to pay such tempting prices that retaining heifer calves and yearlings will necessarily be restricted to that element endowed with sufficient foresight to stay in the cattle business, or able to do so from a financial standpoint. The short route to the money is popular, and both heifer calves and yearlings provide such a route. An audible agitation for saving calves in the farming area is under way, but, in the nature of things, such states as Iowa and Illinois will not initiate sufficient beef production hereafter to cut a swath in aggregate supply. The farming area is dairy-minded and plow-minded, and, in its scheme of production, beef cattle will cut little figure. The beef-making operation, in its major sense, must be initiated on the pastoral areas in the Southwest and beyond the Missouri River, unless, perchance, something adverse to profitable dairying develops, which appears improbable. All over the Corn Belt there is evidence of reviving interest in sheep husbandry, owing to current and prospective high prices of both wool and lambs, coupled with the fact that capital investment in the case of sheep is relatively small and returns are prompt. There is more danger of excess production of lambs than of beef cattle for this reason. It does not necessarily follow that beef production east of the Missouri River will not increase, but such expansion will be so limited as to exert no material influence on values. Skepticism concerning profit in keeping a beef-bred cow all the year around for the revenue derived from its calf at weaning time is still general among farmers, and deeply seated, if not ineradicable. Bankers favor dairy cattle, and they exert a potent influence on farm operations.

This, then, is the logical long-distance commercial cattle prospect. Conditions are unique, if not unprecedented. Heretofore it has been possible, when feed or fat-cattle market conditions furnished the necessary incentive, to replenish feed-lots at reasonable prices without effort, as the trans-Missouri storehouse was well supplied with steers of all ages from yearlings to four-year-olds; but such easy picking is a matter of history and a closed trade chapter.

The western cattle problem is recuperation of breeding herds; that of the pastoralist and feeder is replacement.

## INFLUENCE OF CHEAP PORK ON BEEF CONSUMPTION

BY JAMES E. POOLE

BEEF TRADE has undoubtedly been adversely influenced by two crops of cheap hogs. Eastern markets have been intermittently flooded with low-price fresh pork, enabling consumers to reduce meat bills. There will be no cheap hogs during the coming summer, as the crop is in packers' cellars, and, to collect substantial inventory profits, they have incentive



to maintain prices. Practical assurance of higher hog prices next year is detected in signs of curtailed production. These signs are more or less infallible, and are revealed by excess percentage of sow slaughter, compared with that of barrows, during the past winter, and by assessors' returns this spring. The country has an idea that shorter production will insure more satisfactory financial returns, and the pendulum has a habit of swinging to an extreme in either direction.

Low hog prices are variously attributed. That they have been out of line with cattle and sheep will not be disputed—a fact the country resents. Regardless of what the sad-eyed scientists may say concerning production cost, and a few examples of low cost emanating from agricultural-college circles, showing that gains can be made around or below 8 cents per pound, the average hog-raiser will raise his right hand, take oath, and assert that when he gets less than \$10 per cwt. net for a hog weighing 200 pounds or more he figures in the red. Cheap hogs are responsible for a wave of indignation running over the Corn Belt, much of which is aimed at direct buying. Without discussing underlying causes, the atmosphere is surcharged with resentment, the logical sequence of which will be less pork to find distributive channels.

For two winters past the American people have been on an excessive pork diet, annual per-capita consumption reaching 80 pounds last year. Interior packers are blamed by the national packers for demoralization of the fresh-meat market, which has adversely affected beef. Lacking storage capacity, interior packers have persistently dumped the 16 to 20 per cent of the hog's carcass that sells as fresh meat into eastern markets, to realize whatever it would bring, and, as it was the product of cheap hogs, this turn-over has usually shown a good profit margin. The demoralizing influence of such dumping is recognized and deplored.

The obvious remedy is fewer and higher-cost hogs, and the grower senses this. As a disorderly marketing influence, the interior packer has been a success. He operates his plant at far less cost than packers at central markets, and when he decides to dump his fresh-meat holdings he creates a condition at eastern distributive centers that kicks back at everybody but himself. He is the avowed apostle of cheap hogs, which insure low-cost inventories and reduce sales resistance. He is a veritable thorn in the side of the big packer. A year or two of high-cost hogs would not only help producers, but put a crimp in the devastating activity of the interior slaughterer.

Cheap pork insures sales resistance for beef. Retailers naturally push the cheapest commodity, as it insures maximum profits in the turn-over. During the past winter many retailers all but excluded beef from their ice-boxes, advising consumers that it was excessively costly and uneconomical, to prove which they put on an extra impost by way of stimulating pork sales. The pork-chop package fits into the housewife's budget more snugly than the more costly beefsteak, even when the buyer accepts inferior beef to evade cost. Restaurants, hotels, dining-cars, and all public eating-places have made price an inducement to eat pork, penalizing beef to restrict its use.

Fewer hogs—an accepted certainty—mean less sales resistance for beef, if not higher cattle prices.

### TUBERCULOSIS INDEMNITIES INCREASED

**I**NCREASES IN THE MAXIMUM INDEMNITY that may be paid by the federal government for grade and pure-bred cattle condemned because of tuberculosis have been announced by the Bureau of Animal Industry. The government's share in indemnity payments for grade cattle has been increased from \$25 to \$35, and for pure-bred cattle from \$50 to \$70.

### SOUTHWESTERN CATTLE LAID IN TOO HIGH

J. E. P.

**C**ATTLE CONDITIONS IN THE SOUTHWEST, likewise prospects, are succinctly stated by C. A. Studer, the Anvil Park Hereford man, of Canadian, Texas. Here is what he says:

"I have just made a trip of 850 miles through the heart of the southwestern cattle country, and find that cattle were laid in high for the winter last fall; consequently current prices will not enable their owners to recoup themselves for wintering expense. At present they are not ready to take their loss. Little trading has been done so far, owing to adverse market conditions.

"I find that a majority of the good cattle were shipped out last fall. Some good cattle were left, but many bunches carry a percentage of plain steers that were either shipped in from states west of us or were the cuts of a year ago. Few big cattle—that is, two's, three's, and four's—remain in the country, but a considerable number of yearlings have been wintered. Cows now raising calves are old, and must go to the butcher during the next two or three years. Meanwhile, few heifers are coming on for replacement.

"A few deals have been consummated recently. One lot of 4,200 head of coming yearling standard Hereford steers have been sold for fall delivery—October, 1929—at \$10 per cwt. These cattle will weigh approximately 750 pounds at delivery time, or 450 to 500 pounds on April 15, when placed on grass.

"A few coming yearlings have been sold at \$60 for immediate delivery. The asking price for coming yearlings is \$60 to \$65 per head for spring delivery, representing a cost to the purchaser of 14 to 15 cents per pound for cattle with no sap in them. Possibly owners of these cattle will be under the necessity of taking a loss either this spring or next fall.

"Coming two-year-old steers are priced at \$75 to \$85 per head, and they appear to be the cheapest thing on the board today, as they do not represent as much per pound as coming yearlings.

"Cattle still in first hands that did not sell last fall can be bought at reasonable prices, but cattle acquired last fall are priced out of line with the market, with no sales as the result.

"Cattle are wintering well all over the Southwest, but have been better fed than usual. Men who do not feed usually have done so this year, which means a cake ration from November to April 10. Present values represent more cost, necessitating taking care of the investment.

"Kansas men usually have the majority of their cattle contracted by this time, but so far they have adopted a waiting attitude.

"It appears to me that present holders of cattle bought last fall must orient themselves to present conditions, take their losses, and wipe the slate clean. Those with a place to put their cattle can summer them, taking advantage of a good summer gain, and reducing cost by the time fall delivery comes around."

### MEXICAN CATTLE GOING NORTH

J. E. P.

**K**ANSAS AND OKLAHOMA PASTURES will be replenished with the usual complement of southern cattle this spring; but it was a tight squeeze, made possible only by a somewhat fortuitous circumstance. Last fall pasturemen in the Gulf coast country, whence the tick has recently been evicted, imported a considerable number of light Mexican cattle, and, running into a drought this spring, moved them to northern grass. Otherwise, Flint Hills and Osage replenishment would have been impossible—at least to the full carrying capacity of grass thereabout. At that, these pastures have absorbed a lot of light and common cattle, in striking contrast to the grist of aged steers that formerly comprised the bulk of the April bovine pilgrimage from the southern storehouse to the summer finishing ground.



### NEW MEXICO CONVENTION

**T**HE ANNUAL MEETING of the New Mexico Cattle and Horse Growers' Association—or, as it will henceforth be called, the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association—held in Roswell on March 15 and 16, 1929, was remarkable, not only for its attendance, but for the spirit of enthusiasm and determination which pervaded the gathering. Everybody seemed resolved to do his utmost toward making the future of the live-stock industry one of stable success.

Among the speakers were Victor Culberson and F. E. Molin, the newly elected president and secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, who told of what that organization is doing for the cattleman in a national way, with particular reference to the pending tariff revision, and urged united support of the association's policies. O. M. Plummer, manager of the Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Oregon, presented the plan for a beef-advertising campaign outlined at the San Francisco convention, and pleaded for its active indorsement.

The more important resolutions follow:

Approving ten-year program proposed by Secretary of Agriculture for eradication of predatory animals and injurious rodents, and urging that Congress provide adequate funds for this work;

Demanding maintenance of embargo on imports of live stock and fresh meats from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists, and passage of federal legislation prohibiting delivery in United States of garbage from ships that have called at any port in such countries;

Opposing passage of Capper-Hoppe amendment to Packers and Stock-Yards Act, aimed at limiting producer's right to dispose of his live stock as he sees fit;

Requesting Interstate Commerce Commission speedily to establish lowest freight rates on agricultural products permissible under constitutional restrictions;

Indorsing tariff rates on live stock and its products proposed by American National Live Stock Association;

Urging enactment of leasing law for public domain suitable only for grazing;

Asking that no further grants of lands from public domain be made to Indians, unless such lands be made subject to taxation by state;

Indorsing THE PRODUCER, and urging that every member of association subscribe for it.

All the officers were re-elected: T. A. Spencer, president; R. H. Royall, R. C. Sowder, A. K. Mitchell, and E. T. Springer, vice-presidents; Bertha Benson, Secretary.

### FIFTY-THIRD CONVENTION OF TEXAS ASSOCIATION

**W**HAT WAS DESCRIBED as "the best meeting in many years" gathered at Houston on March 19-21, when the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association met in its fifty-third annual convention, with a huge crowd in attendance from every corner of the Lone Star State and adjoining territory.

On the morning of the first day, President R. M. Kleberg delivered his annual address, advocating the reduction of farm taxes by 50 per cent, and favoring the service of smaller beef-steaks in public eating-houses, at the same time cutting the price in halves. He was followed by Attorney Dayton Moses, who read the report of the executive committee.

Governor Dan Moody opened the proceedings on the second day. O. M. Plummer, member of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, stressed the necessity of advertising meat. This plea was further emphasized by Victor Culberson, president of the American National Live Stock Association, who told of the tariff hearings at Washington, and spoke hopefully of securing adequate protection at the hands of the present Congress.

Other speakers were Congressman Claude B. Hudspeth; T. A. Kincaid, Ozona, president of the Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association; E. D. Henry, San Antonio; W. H. Crain, and A. J. Swenson.

The sum of \$1,345 was pledged toward the fund for advertising beef, started by the American National Live Stock Association at San Francisco. This preliminary fund is to consist of 20,000, to be contributed in four shares of \$5,000 each by the National and affiliated state associations, the pure-bred organizations, the Institute of American Meat Packers, and the National Live Stock and Meat Board. The last-named body will have charge of the campaign soon to be inaugurated.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Urging Congress to impose such duty on live stock, fresh and preserved meats, and hides as will give same measure of protection to products of agriculture as are accorded to those of manufacturing industries, and specifically indorsing rates recommended by delegates of American National Live Stock Association at hearings before committee of House of Representatives;

Requesting repeal of section 15-a of Transportation Act; Protesting against Box-Harris bill for restriction of Mexican immigration;

Opposing Capper amendment to Packers and Stock-Yards Act, aimed at direct marketing;

Demanding that American army and navy be supplied exclusively with beef grown in United States;

Urging extermination of loco weed and other poisonous range plants;

Asking continuation and extension of government beef-grading, and that substantial appropriation be made by Congress for this service;

Favoring plan of doubling assessment for use of National Live Stock and Meat Board;

Requesting Congress to pass law prohibiting sale or delivery at any United States port of garbage from ship that has docked at port in country where foot-and-mouth disease is known or believed to exist;

Recommending removal of all discriminating regulations in marketing of beef;

Extending thanks to American National Live Stock Association for assistance rendered in matters of legislation before Congress and in rate hearings before Interstate Commerce Commission;

Indorsing work of Biological Survey in eradicating predatory animals and forage-destroying rodents, and urging appropriation of adequate state funds for continued co-operation with bureau for that purpose;

Pledging members to work for appropriation from State Legislature of \$350,000 for erection of Memorial Live Stock Building;

Urging appropriation of revolving fund of \$25,000 for testing efficiency of Texas feeds in fattening cattle;

Commending recognition of principle that traffic should bear cost of traffic facilities;

Congratulating those engaged in live-stock business that credit facilities have been placed upon basis of recognition of needs of industry;

Favoring conclusion of live-stock treaty between United States, Canada, and Mexico, providing that three signatories agree not to import cattle from any country where contagious animal diseases prevail;

Petitioning State Legislature to oppose any measure which would restrict competition in production, transportation, and marketing of gas;

Requesting reappointment of A. C. Williams as director of Federal Farm Loan Bank;

Expressing sorrow at death of Sam H. Cowan, T. W. Tomlinson, and members of executive committee of association.

The following officers were elected: T. D. Hobart, Pampa, president; J. M. West, Houston, first vice-president; C. C. Slaught, Dallas, second vice-president; W. E. Connell, Fort Worth, treasurer; E. B. Spiller, Fort Worth, secretary and general manager; Tad Moses, assistant secretary; Dayton Moses, attorney. Next year's convention will be held at San Angelo.

## KANSAS STOCKMEN IN ANNUAL MEETING

**A**N ATTENDANCE second to only one during the past decade, and a program of exceptional interest, marked the sixteenth annual convention of the Kansas Live Stock Association in Wichita, March 6-8. Conspicuous features of the proceedings were the address of President Miller and an exhaustive review of the past year's developments in the live-stock field by Secretary Mercer.

Following are the chief resolutions passed:

Declaring that agriculture is entitled to economic equality with other forms of industry;

Congratulating President Hoover on appointment of ex-Governor Arthur M. Hyde of Missouri as Secretary of Agriculture;

Expressing appreciation of work of retiring Secretary of Agriculture William M. Jardine and Dr. John R. Mohler in interest of live-stock industry;

Urging imperative need of adequate increase in tariff on meat animals, meats, and meat products, as well as a fair tariff on hides;

Opposing direct marketing;

Demanding maintenance of embargo on imports of live stock and fresh meats from countries where foot-and-mouth disease prevails;

Asking that Packers' Consent Decree be set aside;

Indorsing work of National Live Stock and Meat Board, and favoring increase of its revenue by voluntary collection of \$1 a car at all public markets;

Requesting railroads to re-establish half-rate charge on less-than-carload shipments of pure-bred cattle shipped interstate as well as intrastate;

Urging reduction of transportation and marketing costs, including repeal of section 15-a of Transportation Act.

President W. J. Miller and Secretary J. H. Mercer were unanimously re-elected.

## PANHANDLE BREEDERS JOIN IN BEEF CAMPAIGN

**A**T THE JOINT MEETING of the Panhandle Live Stock Association and the Panhandle Hereford Breeders' Association in Amarillo, Texas, early last month, it was decided to co-operate actively in the campaign launched at San Francisco in February by the American National Live Stock Association for increasing the consumption of beef. An extra assessment of 5 cents per car of cattle shipped to market was recommended for that purpose.

G. C. Hutchison, of Tulia, was elected president of the Hereford Breeders; R. D. Alexander, of Canadian, vice-president; and W. E. Bennett, of Amarillo, secretary-treasurer.

## IOWA MEETING INDORSES BEEF-ADVERTISING PROGRAM

**E**NTHUSIASTIC INDORSEMENT of the program outlined at the convention of the American National Live Stock Association in San Francisco last February for bringing the merits of beef before the American public was given at a meeting held in Atlantic, Iowa, March 23, and attended by live-stock producers, commission men, and representatives of the packers, agricultural colleges, and the farm press.

The principal speakers were Harry Hopley, a well-known cattle-breeder of Iowa, who acted as chairman; C. C. Curtiss, dean of the Iowa State College; M. G. Thornburg, secretary of the Iowa Department of Agriculture; W. W. Woods, president of the Institute of American Meat Packers; and R. C. Pollock, general manager of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. The latter gave a vivid description of the work being

done by the board, and urged beef-raisers to imitate the example of the lamb-growers in "boosting" their product.

In resolutions passed, the meeting drew attention to the need of combating the forces which have been responsible for the decrease in meat consumption, urged the necessity of a constructive program of education and publicity, and advocated an advertising campaign in keeping with that undertaken by organizations interested in other foods. A committee was appointed to study ways and means of financing the movement.

Similar meetings are being scheduled for other sections of the country.

## RANGE DIVIDED BETWEEN CATTLE AND SHEEP

**D**IVISION OF GRAZING RIGHTS on the public domain between cattle- and sheepmen, in such a way as to avoid dissension in the future, has been attempted in a bill framed by representatives of the two parties and passed by the Colorado State Legislature.

The bill provides that the right to any particular portion of the range shall be determined according to the use made thereof during the last grazing season prior to the passage of the act. In case a controversy arises, any range now being used as a mixed cattle and sheep range may be apportioned by the District Court, upon complaint of any interested party, according to the requirements of the different kinds of live stock grazed thereon. Areas which have been formally declared sheep or cattle range, or both, by the court, are to be posted, after which it shall be unlawful for anyone to graze or herd stock thereon which is not entitled to such tract.

## IDENTIFICATION OF LIVE STOCK SHIPPED BY TRUCK

**T**O FACILITATE identification of ownership of live stock shipped to market in trucks, district supervisors of the Packers and Stock-Yards Administration have recommended that such shipments be accompanied by signed invoices showing names of owner and consignee, as well as number, species, and markings of animals. Much confusion and dissatisfaction, it is maintained, are at present being caused by the lack of means for identifying the ownership of animals so shipped.

## ARIZONA-NEW MEXICO FREIGHT RATES

**H**EARINGS IN THE CASE involving an increase in freight rates on live stock between points in Arizona and Deming, New Mexico, also El Paso, Texas, on lines of the Southern Pacific Company (I. & S. Docket No. 3222), were held before the Interstate Commerce Commission in Phoenix, Arizona, on March 14 and 15. The American National Live Stock Association was represented by its traffic counsel, Charles E. Blaine. Others appearing in protest were representatives of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, the Arizona Corporation Commission, the El Paso Freight Bureau, and the Peyton Packing Company. Protestants presented forty-three exhibits.

The Southern Pacific asked that the time for filing briefs be set for July 1, 1929. It agreed to postpone the effective date of the proposed increases until the commission enters its final decision.



### LIVE-STOCK FREIGHT INCREASE OPPOSED

A HEARING WAS HELD in Kansas City on March 25-27, before Examiner J. P. McGrath, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, in the case of the attempt of western railroads to advance freight rates on live stock from western markets to packing points east of the Illinois-Indiana state line. Representatives of producers' organizations, eastern meat-packers, and western live-stock exchanges were present to enter their protest against the proposed increase.

An increase of 3½ cents a hundred pounds had been sanctioned by the commission, to go into effect March 10, but the new rates were suspended pending the hearing. Evidence was presented to show that the increase would practically close eastern markets to shipments of stocker and feeder cattle from the West.

When reduced live-stock rates became effective on November 1, 1928, to eastern destinations from Chicago and St. Louis, the eastern lines canceled all reference to the so-called "Kelly combination rule," prescribing the formula for constructing rates from points west of the Mississippi River to points east of the Indiana-Illinois line. Tariffs of the western lines, however, continued to refer to the rule, which forced them to absorb the full shrinkage of approximately 6 cents per 100 pounds, leaving the eastern lines to enjoy higher earnings than prior to November 1, 1928.

The western lines first sought to cancel reference to the "Kelly combination rule" in their tariffs, but the Interstate Commerce Commission suspended these tariffs in I. & S. Docket No. 3199. Thereupon the western carriers sought to withdraw these tariffs and filed new ones, to become effective March 10, 1929, and later, which would have eliminated reference to the combination rule, and published in lieu thereof proportional rates. Numerous protests were filed, and the commission suspended the tariffs under I. & S. Docket No. 3252—the present proceeding.

If these rates become effective, shipments from west of the Mississippi River would lose the reductions made November 1, 1928.

Briefs are now to be filed, and oral arguments presented.

### PRESIDENT HOOVER INVITED TO INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE

A COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES of leading agricultural, commercial, and financial organizations met in Washington on March 18 for the purpose of presenting a joint invitation to President Hoover to attend the Conference of the Major Industries to be held in Chicago next October. At that time it is planned to bring together a number of leaders in the industrial field for a discussion of the general economic situation of the country, with particular reference to agriculture and live stock, closing with a banquet, at which it is hoped to have the nation's President as the principal speaker.

Mr. Hoover promised to take the matter under advisement.

The American National Live Stock Association was represented by Secretary Mollin.

### WORLD SURVEY OF LIVE-STOCK INDUSTRY

RESULTS OF A WORLD SURVEY of live-stock improvement, covering thirty-three countries, have been summarized in pamphlet form by the Bureau of Animal Industry. A striking similarity is shown to exist between methods in use in the United States and those prevailing in other impor-

tant live-stock countries. Whereas the United States ranks high among the countries most active in improving their live stock, its efforts have been largely along educational lines. A number of other countries have given more direct assistance, such as financial aid to breeders.

### UNIVERSAL STANDARDS AS A STIMULUS TO MEAT CONSUMPTION

UNIVERSAL STANDARDS in all branches of the live-stock and meat industry would effect economies in production and distribution costs, and result ultimately in increased consumption through the ability of consumers to buy meats according to specified grade, in the opinion of C. E. Gibbons, senior marketing specialist of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, who discusses this subject in a pamphlet, "Advantages of Standards for Live Stock and Meats," recently published by the bureau.

"Unless the consumer can obtain meat which, in all essential respects, comes up to his requirements and expectations," Mr. Gibbons thinks, "he is likely to use less and less of this commodity, and may eventually turn largely to other food products. From observation it seems likely that in every section of the country meat consumption is falling considerably short of its maximum possibilities, largely because consumers so often find their meat purchases disappointing, in that they fail to give a degree of satisfaction commensurate with their cost."

### Beef-Grading in Canada

A system of government beef-grading has been introduced in Canada. The grading, which is confined to the better qualities of beef, is not to be compulsory, but is available to any slaughtering establishment desiring it.

### Canada's Cattle Exports

Exports of cattle from the Dominion of Canada to the United States and the United Kingdom for the years 1925 to 1928 have been as below:

	United States	United Kingdom
1925 .....	125,193	86,245
1926 .....	171,633	117,819
1927 .....	155,707	61,671
1928 .....	283,789	1,222

### THE CALENDAR

- May 27-28, 1929—Annual Convention of Montana Stock Growers' Association, Butte, Mont.
- May 31-June 1, 1929—Annual Convention of Nebraska Stock Growers' Association, Valentine, Neb.
- June 4-5, 1929—Annual Convention of Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, Sheridan, Wyo.
- June 7-8, 1929—Annual Convention of South Dakota Stock Growers' Association, Rapid City, S. D.
- August 26-29, 1929—National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- September 30-October 6, 1929—Annual Dairy Cattle Congress and National Belgian Horse Show, Waterloo, Iowa.
- October 26-November 2, 1929—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
- November 11-14, 1929—Kansas National Live Stock Show, Wichita, Kan.
- November 16-23, 1929—American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City, Mo.
- November 30-December 7, 1929—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
- January 16-18, 1930—Thirty-third Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Association, Denver, Colo.
- January 18-25, 1930—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.



# THE PRODUCER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

IN THE INTEREST OF THE

LIVE STOCK INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES

BY THE

AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION  
PUBLISHING COMPANY

515 COOPER BUILDING, DENVER, COLORADO

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Subscription: One Year, \$1; Three Years, \$2.75; Six Years, \$5  
Advertising Rates on Request

Volume X                      APRIL, 1929                      Number 11

## THE HIDE TARIFF

**P**ERHAPS IT IS NATURAL that shoe-manufacturers should oppose a duty on hides—although, if they get a compensatory duty on shoes, the reason is not quite obvious; but it is singularly inept to base their opposition upon the pretense that such a duty would benefit nobody whatever. Yet this is exactly what they claim.

In a circular sent out to shoe-retailers by the Florsheim Shoe Company, of Chicago, under date of March 7, the statement is made:

If this proposed legislation were put into effect, it would materially increase the cost of your shoes, without helping anyone. It is claimed by certain interests that a tariff on hides and skins would be of benefit to the farmer. If this were the case, the proposition would be worthy of consideration; but, as a matter of fact, this would not aid the farmer at all. The farmer is interested in the price that he secures for his cattle, and the price that cattle bring is governed by the supply and demand for beef, and not by the value of a by-product such as hides and skins.

The price which the farmer secures for his cattle is governed, not alone by the supply of and demand for beef, but also by the demand for cattle by-products. What share the present-day utilization of every possible by-product has in the price paid by the packer for live stock is a matter of conjecture, but undoubtedly it is not an inconsiderable one. The principal by-product of cattle is their hide. If the hide were worthless, the packer could not pay so much for the live animal as he is now paying. The recent slump in hide values has been a contributory cause to lower cattle prices, as pointed out in the market papers.

If packers were paid as much more for their hides as the proposed duty would amount to, they might be depended upon to pass most of the increment on to the producer, who—temporarily at least—would benefit to that extent. Who doubts that the sheep-raisers have profited by the tariff on that other raw material—wool?

Much has been written lately of the use of substitutes, and the acceleration of that use which presumably would result from a material increase in the price of hides. This argument, of course, is not without weight, but possesses the unfortunate quality of being based on surmise, against which it is difficult to reason. For certain functions of leather, substitutes are serviceable enough; and more such functions may be found. For other purposes, they are not so satisfactory. Shoes and harness are among the latter. At any rate, during the period of adjustment the cattleman's gain should be a positive one. Thereafter it may be that for a while the gain will gradually diminish, until the point is reached when no further fields for the advantageous use of substitutes are discoverable. Then hide prices may be supposed to strike an equilibrium which, if falling somewhat below the amount of the proposed import duty, should at least establish prices above the present level.

The circular says further:

To supply the normal demand for leather, this country must import about 40 per cent of the hides and skins tanned; and if a duty of 15 per cent (which is proposed) were placed on hides and skins that are imported, it would mean that the retail price of every pair of shoes would be increased from 35 to 75 cents per pair, depending on the type of footwear. The result would be that the public's shoe bill would be increased by \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000 a year.

When we recall that the famous argument in favor of putting hides on the free list—namely, that the price of shoes would thereby be materially reduced—in reality was followed by an advance of from 100 to 200 per cent, we are not at all staggered by the enormity of these figures, even though the last sentence, to make the total the more impressive, is put in italics. As a matter of fact, the five or six pounds of raw material entering into the manufacture of an average pair of shoes have little or nothing to do with their price, which is determined by such items as labor cost, rent, sales profit, etc. The public accepted the former gigantic inflation without undue commotion. If no more is now added to the price than the comparatively trifling amount of the tariff demanded—that is, if this slight addition is not "pyramided" by manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer, as has too often been the case in the past—they will quickly know how to adapt themselves to the new order of things. The aim of a protective tariff is not to reduce prices to consumers, but to add to the prosperity—and thus the

buying power—of producers, raising the level of all by raising the level of each.

The barrage which the leather industries are laying down to block the proposed tariff should be met by an energetic counter-move. Let every stockman without delay urge his senators and representatives in Congress to vote for the duty on hides.

## DEPARTMENT OF WAR DECLARES FOR FREE TRADE IN MEAT

IT HAS BEEN GENERALLY THOUGHT that the principle of protection had become pretty well established in this country and had been given somewhat emphatic indorsement at the polls last November. At least, so THE PRODUCER interpreted events. It is, therefore, bewildering to see this principle repudiated by the administration itself which is the fruit of the election.

At its convention in San Francisco in February, the American National Live Stock Association passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The danger of exposure to foot-and-mouth disease is greatly increased by purchases of meats by our naval and merchant marines from countries in which that infection exists; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we reiterate our request that the American army and navy be supplied at all times with beef grown in the United States, and that, wherever the present method of granting contracts to the lowest bidder is according to the terms of the law, the law be changed.

This is simply a modified form of a resolution adopted at previous meetings, taking cognizance of the situation created by the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in California. As on former occasions, copies were sent to the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy.

Acknowledgment has been received from James W. Good, the new Secretary of War. Mr. Good assures us that his department "is co-operating to the fullest extent with the Department of Agriculture in the enforcement of quarantine regulations against the spread of foot-and-mouth disease." On the resolution proper, the secretary confines himself to quoting from the reply given by his predecessor to the resolution adopted at El Paso last year, stating that this reply "is equally applicable at the present time." It runs as follows:

The proposed change in law, which obviously could not be restricted to meat products, if approved by Congress would have the effect of lessening, if not entirely destroying, competition, thereby causing increased prices for all articles purchased by the government. To this the department cannot assent. The funds appropriated for the army each year are barely sufficient for its needs, and the adoption of any proposal that would increase the cost of these requirements, with-

out corresponding benefit to the government, cannot be favorably considered.

In other words, while the administration, including Congress, is thoroughly committed to a policy of protection for American industry, and right now is busy preparing to carry out the campaign promise and the mandate of the people for higher duties on the products of agriculture, including meat—duties which automatically will make every consumer pay more for these products than he would have to pay under conditions of unrestricted imports—one of the departments frankly repudiates this principle as destructive of competition and "causing increased prices" to the government, and declares its adherence to the good old free-trade doctrine of buying at the lowest cost from whatever source.

A rather remarkable example of governmental inconsistency, to which THE PRODUCER wishes to draw the attention of its readers.

## MEXICAN IMMIGRATION

SO FAR AS WE KNOW, none of the three new members of the cabinet whose departments are more directly concerned has expressed himself publicly on the matter of Mexican immigration. We surmise that Mr. Stimson, Mr. Hoover's Secretary of State, in the interest of continuity of our foreign policies, may oppose the passage of the Box bill for the same reasons as his predecessor. We take it, too, that Mr. Wilbur, the Secretary of the Interior, coming from California, may possess a first-hand knowledge of the importance of this class of labor to the agricultural industries of the West. Similarly, the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Hyde, may be presumed to look at the matter from the angle of those under his special protection.

This, of course, is mere guesswork. Secretary of Labor Davis, however, is a hold-over from the previous administration; and we know where he stands. In a letter to this office, dated February 28, Mr. Davis writes:

The policy involved in immigration restriction, as you know, is a legislative matter, and determined by the Congress. From my discussions with senators and representatives I feel certain that, should the Box bill . . . be brought up on the floor, it would pass with overwhelming majority. . . .

. . . In my own review of the needs of particular localities, I arrived at a conclusion that perhaps the fairest proposition is a universal restriction, but with provision made for the admission, temporarily, of needed labor, when that need is affirmatively shown to exist. . . . The importers of temporary alien labor would, of course, have to assume the responsibility for its return when the emergency for which it was needed ceased to exist.

[Continued on page 18]



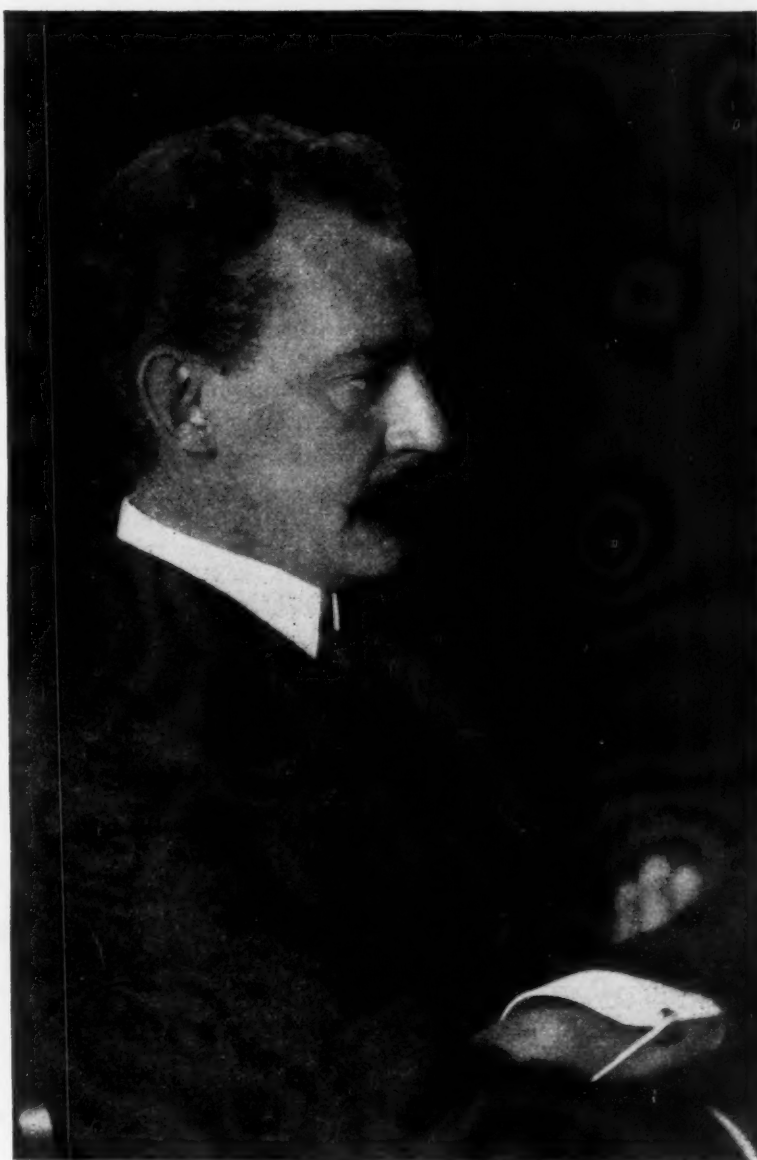
## Dwight B. Heard

**A** GAIN ONE OF THE PILLARS of the American National Live Stock Association has fallen. On March 14, Dwight B. Heard suddenly passed away at his home in Phoenix, Arizona, only fifty-nine years old.

Springing from New England revolutionary stock, Mr. Heard was born on a Massachusetts farm in 1869. At the age of seventeen he entered the employ of Hibbard, Spencer, Bartlett & Co. of Chicago, remaining with that firm until 1895, when broken health forced him to seek relief in the Southwest. After some time spent on a cattle ranch in the Texas Panhandle, he moved to the Salt River Valley of Arizona, which was to become his future home. Here he engaged in ranching on his own account, soon recovered his strength, and, with indomitable energy, began laying the foundation for that life of manifold activities which was to mark him as one of the outstanding citizens of his community.

His herds of breeding cattle became known far and wide. The broad acres of luscious alfalfa surrounding his residence were pointed out to the visitor as one of the show places of the state. In the large-scale irrigation projects transforming the arid valley into a great agricultural region he was one of the moving spirits. The introduction of cotton culture into Arizona was partly due to his initiative. The movement for good roads, national conservation policies, and better utilization of the public range in him found a valiant champion. He invaded the newspaper field, becoming president and general manager of the *Arizona Republican*—the most widely circulated daily in the state. He was likewise interested in the banking business.

In politics a follower of the late President Roosevelt, whose close personal friend he was, he was one of the founders of the short-lived Progressive party. He was a member of the National Conservation Conference called by Roosevelt, and one of the water commissioners who conducted the preliminary work in connection with the construction of the Roosevelt Dam. When the question of granting statehood to the two territories of Arizona and New Mexico came before Congress, he was chairman of the committee that went to Washington to protest against the joint-statehood bill which had been introduced, and it was largely owing to his vigorous opposition that that legislation was defeated. During the World War he was a member of the National Advisory Committee



DWIGHT B. HEARD

on Beef and chairman of the Arizona Council of Defense. He was chairman of the board of trustees of the National Cotton Exchange and a director of the United States Chamber of Commerce. A few years ago he was the Republican candidate for governor of Arizona. Lately he had been active as a member of Arizona's delegation on the Colorado River Commission.

Many honors came to him from those who perhaps had first claim on his all-embracing interests. After serving for several years as president of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association and for three terms as first vice-president of the American National Live Stock Association, he was elected president of the latter organization at its San Francisco convention in 1915, succeeding Henry A. Jastro, and being re-elected the following year. During his incumbency he was especially active in the work of securing more favorable freight rates on live stock. He remained an in-

fluent force in the councils of the association until his death.

With Dwight B. Heard there passes a man with a remarkable record of private achievement and public devotion; a broad-gauged man of universal sympathies, whose keenness in wrestling with the larger problems of life did not dim his intense delight in the little things that are the background and the refuge of existence; one of those wholesome individuals who, in the old Roman phrase, are not strangers to anything touching the common humanity. Live-stock circles throughout the West will mourn his untimely death. To his state the loss is irreparable.

Mr. Heard is survived by his wife, who was Miss Maie P. Bartlett, of Chicago, and one son.

## MEXICAN IMMIGRATION

[Concluded from page 16]

THE PRODUCER very much fears that such an arrangement would not be practicable. Besides the amount of cumbersome and long-spun-out red tape it would involve—at a time, too, when in agricultural pursuits often every hour counts—it would require a degree of organization and united action for which the majority of those in need of this labor are hardly yet prepared. For a large individual employer to foresee his labor wants for a whole season is not easy. Emergencies will always arise against which it is impossible to assure oneself. In the exigencies of the harvest season, it is essential that there be a supply of labor available which can be drawn upon at a moment's notice, or irretrievable damage may result.

Furthermore, under such restriction the employer would be absolutely at the mercy of his workers. If a man has imported a lot of Mexicans for the summer, at a stipulated wage, and these men conspire to demand increases which he feels it impossible to grant, under threat of quitting at the height of the season's work, and letting the crops rot in the field, where is he going to turn for substitutes?

Then, the requirement that the employer is to be held responsible for the workers' leaving the country at the end of the term will be found difficult of fulfillment. How is the beet-grower living in Colorado, for instance, to go about shipping his laborers back across the frontier, if they refuse to go voluntarily? Would he have to hire a bodyguard for each individual?

It is true, of course, as Secretary Davis says, that it is for Congress to decide. As to the sentiment in Congress, we have no inside information. It may be that Mr. Davis is right. If he is, the more necessary it seems that each employer of Mexican labor write to his representatives in Washington, urging them strongly to reconsider this important matter.

## NEW SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

AS SUCCESSOR TO WILLIAM M. JARDINE, President Hoover has picked Arthur M. Hyde, ex-governor of Missouri. Though this appointment was in the nature of a surprise to most people, much has lately been written of Mr. Hyde's fitness for his job. Not exactly a "dirt farmer," perhaps, he is by no means without practical contact with the life of an agriculturist, owning and operating three farms of considerable size in his home state. Besides, he has that other desirable qualification for political preferment in this country of being a lawyer.

Born in Princeton, Missouri, in 1877, Mr. Hyde received his collegiate training in Michigan and Iowa, graduating from the law department of the university of the latter state. Between 1900 and 1925 he practiced law in the town of his birth, after which he interested himself in the distribution of motor cars. Recently he resumed his law practice, while remaining president of a large life-insurance company. He was elected mayor of Princeton in 1908 and governor of Missouri in 1920, serving for the term 1921-25. He is noted for his oratorical skill.

Such, in brief, is the career of the man who will guide the destinies of the Department of Agriculture in the new administration. That department from year to year has taken on increasing importance, its field constantly expanding. Mr. Hyde brings comparative youth (he is the youngest member of the cabinet), and youth's enthusiasm, to his task. He will have the good wishes of a constituency that is as ready as any other to let judgment wait on performance.

## PRICKLY PEAR IN AUSTRALIA

MEASURES FOR THE CONTROL of the prickly pear in Australia seem to be bearing fruit. In the fourth annual report of the Queensland Prickly Pear Land Commission, as summarized in the *Pastoral Review* of Melbourne, it is stated that, except in the northern portion of the territory supervised by the commission, where the country is used solely for grazing cattle, and where heavy expenditure for pear eradication is not warranted, the further spread of the pear has been definitely stopped, and that there is considerable less pear in the state than when the commission took office. This satisfactory result has been obtained by the wide distribution of poison and through biological control.

The prickly-pear districts in Queensland comprise a total of approximately 63,500,000 acres, or nearly 100,000 square miles. Of this area it is estimated that less than 6 per cent is vacant. The commission deals exhaustively with the question of poisons, and mentions the possibility of ultimately controlling the pest by means of insects. One insect in particular, the *Cactoblastis cactorum*, holds out much promise as a pear-destroyer, areas of from 600 to 2,000 acres of fairly dense pear having been completely freed of the noxious growth by this agency during the past two years. Other insect enemies of the plant have been introduced with great success.



# THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

## FAVORS JUNE FOR CONVENTION DATE

CODY, NEB., March 20, 1929.

TO THE PRODUCER:

This month's issue of THE PRODUCER has an editorial entitled, "Why Not Change Convention Date?" For years, when I got notice of the date of the American National Live Stock Association convention, I have thought that very same thing. And no doubt a good many other cattlemen have thought likewise. At the San Francisco convention I met some cattlemen from Wyoming who had some real grief in reaching the railroad.

I would suggest, as most of our state associations meet during the early part of the year, nearly all of them having held their meetings prior to June 15, that the American National convention be held about June 20 of each year. Then anything of importance acted on at the state conventions could be brought up at the convention of the American National, which likewise would have plenty of time to get things lined up before Congress met. Stockmen, as a rule, are more inclined to take a vacation at that time of year, as stock needs less care then than in almost any other month of the year. In the fall months comes the shipping season, as well as state and national fairs.

As a member of the executive committee, I will cast my vote for as near June 20 as possible.

DAN ADAMSON.

## IN FAVOR OF CHANGING CONVENTION DATE

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, March 25, 1929.

TO THE PRODUCER:

In the March issue of THE PRODUCER I was greatly interested in an article suggesting that the annual conventions be held in November. I am heartily in accord with this idea. I have mentioned it to a few of our officers, but so far have received no encouragement. I can see many advantages to such an arrangement, and shall expect to continue to agitate the idea.

F. R. MARSHALL,  
Secretary, National Wool Growers' Association.

## CATTLE COMING THROUGH WINTER IN GOOD SHAPE

NENZEL, NEB., March 8, 1929.

TO THE PRODUCER:

We have wintered in good shape in this part of Nebraska. Although we have had lots of cold weather, cattle are coming through in fine condition. Hay is a little scarce, but, with a favorable spring, everybody will come through with flying colors.

H. G. WALLINGFORD.

## LEVY TO INCREASE CONSUMPTION OF BEEF

ROUNDUP, MONT., March 27, 1929.

TO THE PRODUCER:

I was very much interested in R. P. Lamont's letter in the March PRODUCER, "Concerted Action of Beef-Producers," and especially in his suggestion of a levy of one dollar a car on cattle shipped to market to create a fund for the purpose of promoting the consumption of beef. What stockman would object to this small donation to better the cause? In that way everybody would do his share, and nobody would be hurt by the small sum donated. It would seem that some way should be worked out to put such a proposition into effect.

J. C. MILLER,  
Secretary, Western Cattle Company.

## OX-WARBLES BIG PROBLEM WITH CATTLEMEN

REVA, S. D., March 30, 1929.

TO THE PRODUCER:

We have had one of the longest cold-spell winters that have been recorded for this country. The tale of winter is not yet told, but even though the weather at the time does not agree with the early calves coming, you "kind of" heave a sigh of relief and rest assured that it cannot last much longer.

I think that THE PRODUCER would be solving a great problem of the cattleman if it were somehow possible for it to point out how to combat the growing menace of ox-warbles. It seems like a small and trivial ailment, but there are a good many pounds of beef that never get to the market because of this pest. I recently removed eighty from a 450-pound calf. I feel almost certain that they in some way affected the calf, so that it developed some sort of urinary trouble. It has improved following removal of the grubs.

J. BRUCE ORCUTT.

## ARGENTINE MEAT EXPORTS

THE BELOW FIGURES of exports of beef, mutton, and lamb from Argentina during the year 1928, as compared with 1927, have been compiled by the *Times of Argentina*:

	1928	1927
Beef, chilled—quarters.....	5,858,915	6,344,284
Beef, frozen—quarters.....	1,401,792	3,555,735
Mutton—carcasses .....	1,669,143	2,447,903
Lamb—carcasses .....	2,559,296	2,241,391

Of the chilled beef, everything in both 1928 and 1927 went to the United Kingdom; while of the frozen beef, in 1928 the United Kingdom took 9.7 per cent and the European continent 89 per cent, against 10.4 and 88.6 per cent, respectively, in 1927. By far the greater portion of mutton and lamb exports in both years went to England. In 1927 the United States received 1,000 lamb carcasses.

# WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

## THE SPECIAL SESSION OF CONGRESS

ON APRIL 15 the special session of the new Congress meets in Washington for the purpose of passing a farm-relief measure and revising the tariff on agricultural products. These are the only two subjects on the program; but it is, of course, possible that an effort may be made to deal with a few other matters considered pressing.

With regard to the tariff, there seems little doubt that the recommendations of the American National Live Stock Association, the Committee on Governmental Relations, and numerous other producers' organizations as to rates on live stock and meat products will in the main prevail. Practically everybody is agreed that the stockman is entitled to more protection. The threatened attempt of manufacturing interests to take advantage of the situation by demanding an increase in duties on their output is being frowned upon by those having the matter in charge. President Hoover has let it be understood that he wishes the adjustment confined to agricultural products, in fulfilment of campaign promises.

A weighty argument in favor of higher tariff schedules for agriculture has been the inequality between import duties leveled on the principal farm crops and the degree of protection bestowed on manufacturers. It has been estimated that present duties average about 42 per cent on manufactured articles, against only 20 per cent on the products of the farm. To correct this injustice has been one of the chief aims of the present movement.

Of the duties asked for by the cattlemen, most doubt centers around the hide schedule. Much opposition is developing to this feature. Manufacturers of leather goods are rallying their highly organized forces to the old battle-cry of keeping shoe costs down—an argument, faulty as it is, that nevertheless possesses a powerful consumer appeal. It will require the united efforts of stockmen to offset this influence.

Hearings on the general "farm-relief" legislation have been in progress before the House Committee on Agriculture since March 27, and it is anticipated that a bill will be ready for submission when Congress convenes. Attempts to make the President indicate his wishes with regard to the principles to be written into this bill have failed, Mr. Hoover being content to let Congress muddle through as best it can. Some difference of opinion has developed on the extent of the power to be given the Farm Board proposed to be established. Probably no attempt will be made to revive the equalization fee.

## NAVY NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR FOOT-AND-MOUTH OUTBREAK

REPORTS HAVE PERSISTENTLY BEEN CIRCULATED that infection brought in on a ship belonging to the United States navy was responsible for the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in California. In order to clear the navy of all suspicion, and to correct other misinformation, Dr.

John R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, has issued the following statement:

"The investigation of the source of the outbreak has been completed. The garbage which caused this outbreak was not taken from a vessel of the United States navy, but from the steamship 'Los Angeles' which plies chiefly between California and Hawaii. However, last fall this vessel left for a South American cruise. During its trip it was provisioned at a South American port, where it took on 18,000 pounds of fresh beef, pork, lamb, and veal. In December the vessel returned to San Pedro, California, and what remained of the meat obtained in South America was transferred to another ship, when the 'Los Angeles' was prepared to go to dry-dock. Portions of the meat, discarded during the transfer, finally reached the hog ranch where foot-and-mouth disease made its first appearance in the recent outbreak. The evidence in the case has been referred to the legal authorities of the department for the prosecution of the offenders."

Dr. Mohler states that there is absolutely no reason to believe that there has been any laxity on naval vessels in carrying out an order of the Secretary of the Navy, issued September 10, 1924, directing the manner in which garbage from naval vessels shall be disposed of. This order was issued on Dr. Mohler's recommendation.

In regard to garbage originating on vessels other than naval vessels, a government regulation, designated as B. A. I. Order 298, was issued to go into effect March 1, 1927, to prevent the importation into this country of communicable diseases of live stock. The order prohibits the importation of all fresh or frozen beef, veal, mutton, lamb, and pork from regions where foot-and-mouth or rinderpest exists, whether it be in quarters, smaller cuts, or trimmings. A subsequent regulation, known as B. A. I. Order 301, together with amendments, places still further restrictions on importations of live stock, meats, hides, hair, wool, hay, straw, forage, viruses, serums, and various other products relating directly or indirectly to live stock. In addition, the Bureau of Animal Industry has requested live-stock sanitary authorities of coastal states and health officers of the various port cities to co-operate by taking appropriate action in matters coming within the authority of those officials. The danger of foot-and-mouth disease infection from garbage has been long recognized by veterinary officials, and recommendations have been made on the subject to local officials.

\* \* \*

On March 14 the quarantine placed on the affected area in California was removed by the Department of Agriculture, extensive inspections having indicated that the last vestige of the disease had been eradicated. As a precautionary measure, however, the premises on which the disease was found will temporarily be held under supervision, and an adequate force of trained veterinarians will be maintained in the locality to deal promptly with any possible recurrence.

Thus, let us hope, ends this outbreak of a singularly treacherous disease—an outbreak that has been of the shortest duration of any that have yet occurred.



# THE MARKETS

## LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN MARCH

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., April 1, 1929.

**B**UT FOR THE WAIL emitted by the man who incautiously loaded up with big cattle last fall, winter price events would not have elicited serious criticism in beef-making circles. Retrospection is convincing that the boom quotations of last August and September could not, in the nature of things, be durable. Most feeders have taken results philosophically, although a minority, seeking alibis, have berated packers, the market, and those who sold them the cattle last fall, and otherwise have endeavored to dodge personal responsibility for the calamity inseparable from investment at high levels. Light cattle—especially the common types—have made money, and even in the case of big steers many feeders have managed at least to break even. As a rule, those who paid \$14 or better for fleshy feeders last fall are more or less seriously out of pocket in consequence—loss that was assured when the cattle were acquired.

### Demand Improving for Light Cattle

March developed a somewhat improved tone, a veritable scramble for light steers and heifers developing. How heavy beef is handicapped in the distributing process was indicated by constant difficulty in getting anything over 1,100 pounds across the scales with reasonable celerity, while cattle under 900 pounds did their own selling. Little 650- to 800-pound heifers were the prize packages of the crop, and, mixed with steers, were ignored by buyers, in striking contrast to their policy a few years back, when heifers were spotted and thrown out, or the entire load was penalized \$1 per cwt. or more—a practice that amounted to larceny, and was so recognized at the time, although feeders were then defenseless. There has always been competition on light cattle, rarely any on the big brutes, especially "lobsters"—a trade term for undesirable bullocks, from a conformation standpoint, regardless of condition; a type that "gets by" only when heavy cattle are scarce and eligible to a premium.

### Heavy-Weights Still Draggy

At intervals the fat-cattle market has displayed a disposition to pick up, but this has invariably brought in a few more, and the bloom has speedily been brushed off. Always cattle have been on top whenever the market bid for them. Had feeders not been up against minus margins in many cases, narrow margins always, market atmosphere would have been less sulphurous. In March more cattle bought after the October break reported, their owners getting out at least even, and in some cases actually pocketing a little velvet. Late March witnessed curtailment of the previous gob of big cattle, but always there was sufficient weight above the 1,200-pound line to go around, with some to spare. As a rule, cattle good enough to sell above \$13 have had a more cordial reception than intermediate grades; always plain and rough heavy steers have had difficulty in getting over the scales; and usually the day's crop of yearlings has tramped across the scales, while heavier cattle were begging bids. A handful of steers—mostly yearlings—has been appraised above \$14, a sprinkling of mixed

steer and heifer yearlings going at \$14 to \$14.50. Under the \$12 line, killers have not been getting many cattle with a decent beef-covering, and at intervals feeders have competed on anything with quality selling from \$12 up.

### Average Cost Ascending

Late in March the average cost line crossed that of the same period last year on a rising curve. Average cost of slaughter steers at Chicago during the week ending March 23 was \$12.81, compared with \$12.54 the same week of 1928, although top grades were still 50 cents per cwt. lower than at that time. Common killing steers were 50 cents higher than in March, 1928, medium kinds 30 cents higher, and good cattle 23 cents higher, based on average cost of the entire purchase. In 1928 values were on a down grade, it will be remembered, while the tide is now rising.

### Spreads Likely to Widen

Indications point to wider spreads between common and finished steers. April usually delivers a lot of southern Texas grass steers at the market, and they have heretofore enjoyed an unenviable reputation as price-crashers; but curtailment of the Texas tick-infested area has changed, if not revolutionized, conditions, as south Texas cattle are now eligible to Kansas and Oklahoma pasture berths for the summer, whereas a few years since they went, of necessity, to the quarantine divisions at Kansas City and St. Louis, and thence to the slaughter-pens. The influence of this mutation is still in the field of conjecture, but it probably means that the regulation spring break in prices of the cheaper grades of killing steers will be less severe, if not eliminated; and breaks in any class of cattle are always sympathetically effective elsewhere.

### Finish to Get Recognition

Trade opinion is that the narrow spread recently is due to widen at an early date, when finished cattle should sell more on their merits. All through the winter, feeders had little or

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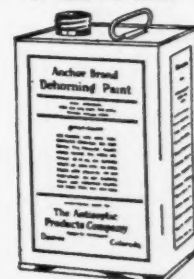
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no incentive to carry cattle along, and the farther they carried them, the more they were out of pocket. Eventually finish will get recognition, as few fleshy cattle have been going into feeders' hands since the turn of the year, and a steady pull has been made on those laid in last fall. The stage is being set for a new act, the probability being that the specialties will sell as high as last summer, while medium grades will not be equal to the same performance. In any event, the spring and summer market will not resemble that of 1928.

#### Bulk of Big Steers West of Missouri

How many big steers are still back in feeders' hands is anybody's guess. That the residue is working into stronger hands is obvious. Illinois has all but cleaned up, Iowa is working off its load, and by this time the bulk of the heavy cattle on the horizon are in Nebraska, or the sugar sections of Colorado and Wyoming. A time may not be far distant when eastern buyers will ride Chicago stock-yard alleys in quest of heavy cattle.

#### Consumers Looking for Cheap Beef

Cheap beef of all kinds is in demand, making good prices for female cattle, including canners and bulls. This demonstrates that consumers, in an effort to get away from price, are accepting inferior meats. If it were otherwise, killers would not be cheating the feeder out of fleshy light cattle that formerly fell to his share, with little, if any, competition.

#### High Hog Market Predicted for Summer

Hogs advanced rapidly in March, under diminishing supply, until the \$12 line was passed at Chicago, and average cost was well above \$11.50, against slightly above \$8 at the corresponding period of 1928. The winter crop was marketed early, which accounts for the steady rise since early in January. One of the big packers took the bull side of the market early in March, to the evident discomfiture of another big outfit that was not in similar mood. A high hog market all summer is indicated, which will enable packers to pocket substantial inventory profits. Nothing is bearish except heavy stocks of lard and meats, and, as this holding is the property of the big packers, they have every incentive to maintain prices for the purpose of facilitating inventory reductions, turning over the winter accumulation at more or less substantial profits. In other words, the logical side of the hog market for the packer is the bull side.

#### Lamb Trade Continues Prosperous

Lamb trade has continued its prosperous course. Choice lambs went to \$17.85 at Chicago in March, and have been correspondingly high elsewhere. Most of the time killers got few good lambs below \$17, the bulk of the crop selling between that figure and \$17.50. Sheep, which are abnormally scarce, also worked up, fat ewes selling at \$10 to \$11 per cwt. Yearlings and aged wethers have practically disappeared. Dressed trade has been healthy, lamb carcasses realizing 28 to 31 cents per pound—a basis on which the public has been in receptive mood. Colorado has done a reasonably good marketing job, although Denver receipts have been irregular as to volume. Such has been demand for lamb that feeders were able to secure few, paying up to \$16.75 at Chicago. The winter lamb market has dissipated skepticism concerning the future of the industry, creating a broad demand for breeding stock, and insuring remunerative prices for both fat and feeder ends of the new western lamb crop.

"I cannot get along without THE PRODUCER."—J. R. BAGNALL, Chester, Utah.

## FEWER STOCKERS GOING TO COUNTRY

J. E. P.

**CATTLE MAY NOT BE SCARCE**, but the easterner in replacement mood cannot be convinced of it. March developed broad demand for anything wearing a hide, capable of taking on added weight, prices advancing \$1 to \$1.50 per cwt. In other words, light cattle costing \$11 to \$11.50 early in March were up to \$12 to \$12.50 at Chicago by April 1, and correspondingly high elsewhere. Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, the Virginias, and Kentucky were in the ring at Chicago, anxious to get possession of anything respectable.

In the nature of things, there can be no cheap stock cattle, and, with the germ of speculation always latent, activity is easily stimulated. The last thing needed is repetition of what happened last year, although such is greed for cattle that it is not impossible.

How light the countryward movement of stock cattle has been the figures indicate. During the three weeks ending March 18 only 56,000 head left twelve markets, compared with 76,000 last year and 85,000 in 1927. During January and February the same markets sent out only 179,000, against 255,000 last year and 253,000 two years ago. Since the break last October the countryward movement has been away below normal, and will probably continue so. It has carried few feeders of the fleshy type, as they would cost \$13 to \$14 per cwt., and investors are not in that mood. The limit paid for fleshy feeders at Chicago has been \$13; at Kansas City as high as \$14.15 has been paid. If fat heavy steers should take a \$2 jump, it is probable that feeders would throw discretion to the winds in an effort to corral a few.

#### Herd Bulls

#### Range Bulls

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Sire feeder calves that command a premium. Champion feeders at Denver four out of five past years were Shorthorns.

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American Shorthorn Breeders' Association

13 Dexter Park Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Average cost of stock cattle at Chicago late in March figured slightly over \$12 per cwt., against \$11.09 a year ago, fleshy feeders being about 50 cents per cwt. higher than at that time, and light cattle, on which demand centers, more than \$1 per cwt. higher.

Naturally current high prices have restricted demand, which is inevitable, as there are not enough cattle to go around. If the farming area gets a crop of grass and a good corn prospect, anything may happen. Advancing cost of stock cattle is having a tendency to put farmers in dairying mood.

## STOCKERS AT HIGHEST LEVEL IN HISTORY

J. E. P.

**P**ASTUREMEN ARE BUYING CATTLE this season on a get-a-grass-bill basis, which is dangerously akin to speculation. They candidly admit improbability of a profit on the cattle, but aim to harvest feed. Average cost of stockers and feeders during the last week of March at Kansas City was well above the \$12 mark, or the highest in trade history, with the exception of a brief period late in the recent war and immediately subsequent thereto. At Kansas City feeders paid up to \$14.15 for fleshy steers, and at Chicago \$13 was paid for similar cattle by a Virginia man who figured that additional cost getting them into his pasture would be another dollar. Mineral Point, Wisconsin, pasturemen have restocked their grass at \$12.25 to \$12.90, which means that they will need good money for their fat cattle next fall to cash in on the desired grass bill.

Evidently the big end of the stick has passed from the feeder to the grower.

## THE DENVER MARKET

BY W. N. FULTON

DENVER, COLO., April 3, 1929.

**C**ATTLE-FEEDERS sent large numbers of stock to the Denver market during March. They were influenced, no doubt, by the satisfactory prices prevailing, and also by the

fact that feeders are anxious to get their feed-lots cleared, to leave them free for spring ranching activities. The market had a good tone throughout the month. Demand for all fat cattle was strong from packer buyers, and feeder and stocker cattle also sold to good advantage. Good fat steers were selling at \$11 to \$12 on the Denver market early in March, whereas at the close they were bringing around \$11.50 to \$13.25. Cows that were selling at \$8 to \$9.25 early in the month were bringing from \$9 to \$10.25 at the close, while choice grades sold to outsiders up to \$10.50. Heifers sold at the close of the month at around \$11 to \$12.65, whereas a month earlier they were going at \$10 to \$11.50. Feeder cattle sold late in March at around \$11 to \$12.60, with choice light stocker steers up to \$13; early in March most feeders were selling at around \$10 to \$11.50. While a good many cattle remain in the feed-lots of northern Colorado, the great majority have been marketed, and there is every indication of continued satisfactory prices during the rest of the season.

**Hogs.**—Hog-trading was active during March, and prices, on the whole, were very satisfactory. Demand from local packers and killers was fairly good, while some inquiry developed on shipping account. Early in the month top hogs were selling on the Denver market at around \$10.50; by the middle of the month they had gone to \$11.15, while late in March outsiders paid from \$11.30 to \$11.50 for a few bunches. During the closing week good hogs sold at around \$11 to \$11.25, while the top on the closing session, which was Saturday, was \$10.75. Indications point to a rather limited supply of hogs during the next few months, and the prediction is made that prices will show some advance.

**Sheep.**—The lamb market was maintained on a very satisfactory level throughout the month of March. Good fat lambs were selling at the close of February at \$15.50 to \$16; by the middle of the month choice lambs had reached \$16.25, and this price was well maintained to the close. Feeder lambs that sold around \$15.25 to \$15.75 early in March were selling at \$15.75 to \$16 at the close. Choice fat ewes were quoted at the close of March up to \$10 to \$10.25, although very few were coming to market. Orderly marketing of fat lambs is doing much for the feeders this year, as it did one year ago. Northern Colorado feeders realize that they have the situation well in hand, and they are not overloading the market, with the result that the supply here in March was slightly under that of March a year ago. There is every reason to anticipate satisfactory prices on the lambs remaining in the feed-lots of northern Colorado.

**Horses.**—Horse trade was active throughout the month, with receipts showing a slight gain as compared with March, 1928. Buyers were present at the regular weekly auction sales from all sections of the West, and the competition was strong for good-quality horses. Prices were considered about steady with a month ago. Good heavy work-horses and mules are selling at around \$100 to \$150 a head, with farm chunks at \$60 to \$90, and lighter horses from \$50 down.

## LAMBS AT TOP OF LADDER

J. E. P.

**I**NTEREST IN SHEEP HUSBANDRY—in other words, lamb and wool production—has been intensified by a \$16.50 to \$17.50 lamb market during the past winter. It means good prices for feeding lambs and breeding ewes during the coming summer and fall, and, as a logical sequence, equally good money for fat lambs. Colorado feeders, flush with profits, will

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need a larger package, and farmer feeders, who were all but out of the market last fall, will have a voice in determining prices.

Several factors were responsible for high winter prices. Cost of beef was one, and, although dressed lamb cost considerably more than beef, the size of the package gave lamb a decided advantage over the bulkier parcel. Lamb was pushed by retailers, whose customers needed an alternate meat for pork, of which they tired, despite actually lower cost; and lamb was adapted to the purpose. Less lamb, by weight, was required to fill out a meal than in the case of beef, and a couple of lamb-chops was a neat accompaniment for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Beefsteak—rarely seen nowadays on a dining-car menu, where it is invariably appraised at \$1.25 or \$1.50 per order—has not been able to compete with lamb-chops at 80 cents, the average traveler limiting the cost of a meal to \$1.50, which is impossible when the necessary adjuncts are added to a \$1.50 steak. The writer, disposing of an evening meal on a dining-car between Kansas City and Chicago not long since, invested in one of these dollar-and-a-half steaks, getting more exercise than sustenance in the process of disposal. In other words, it was an indifferent piece of meat, and, with the trimmings, brought the meal check up to \$2.25, or \$2.50 with the tip; which is more than most people care to spend, without an expense account. The railroad people are not giving beef a "square shake." That \$1.50 steak could have been bought in any meat market for 40 cents; and, if the dining-car purchasing agent cannot do better than the average market man, he should be summarily and incontinently fired.

Anyhow, lamb is gaining in popularity, both as a substitute for pork, when the consuming public is sated with that meat, and also as a substitute for beef, when the latter is out of the reach of many.

This lamb market is calculated to gladden the heart of the sheep-breeder, dispelling, as it does, mists that have obscured the future of his industry. Admittedly his problem has been one of consumption, rather than production, for some time past. Prophecy of such rapid production increase as to insure low prices has been dispelled, as the advertised comeback has been slow; but the gratifying phase of the situation is that the public is eating lamb at prices that would have been considered impossible a few years back. In their daily purchase of live lambs, packers have incinerated no money, nor have they paid premiums to stimulate production. Their purchases have been made on a profitable basis, so far as the turn-over was concerned; otherwise the prices would not have been possible. At every step of the road they have resisted cost, proving conclusively that the product was needed to supply daily trade demands.

Possibly Hartzell's cutting demonstrations have had something to do with it, but this salesmanship effort has been merely one influence. Weight must be given some credit, as, had the winter supply carried a large percentage of big lambs, average prices would undoubtedly have been lower. Not only does weight make tonnage, but it is a recognized price burden. If feeders commit the indiscretion of assuming that any considerable number of lambs weighing 95 pounds and up can be readily absorbed at top prices, they will ride for a fall, despite the altitude at which relatively few were able to get over the scales last winter.

#### Baltic States Increase Bacon Shipments

A considerable increase has taken place in arrivals in English markets of what is known as "Baltic" bacon—that is, Russian, Polish, Latvian, and Estonian. At the same time, there has been a marked improvement both in the character of the pigs and in the preparation and cure of the bacon.

### COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES showing prices on the principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on April 1, 1929, compared with March 1, 1929, and April 2, 1928:

SLAUGHTER STEERS:	April 1, 1929	March 1, 1929	April 2, 1928
Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.)	\$13.75-14.50	\$13.75-14.75	\$14.25-15.00
Good	12.75-13.75	12.50-13.75	13.25-14.75
Choice (1,100 lbs. down)	13.75-14.75	13.75-14.75	14.00-14.75
Good	13.00-14.00	12.75-13.75	12.75-14.25
Medium (800 lbs. up)	11.50-13.00	11.50-13.00	11.25-13.25
YEARLING STEERS:			
Good to Choice	13.00-15.00	13.75-15.00	12.50-14.25
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice	10.25-14.00	9.50-13.50	9.75-13.75
COWS:			
Good to Choice	8.50-10.50	8.50-10.50	8.75-11.25
FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:			
Good to Choice (800 lbs. up)	11.75-13.00	10.75-12.00	11.00-12.50
Common to Medium	9.50-11.75	8.50-10.75	9.00-11.00
Good to Choice (800 lbs. down)	11.50-13.00	11.00-12.00	11.00-12.50
Common to Medium	9.75-11.50	8.50-11.00	8.25-11.00
HOGS:			
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)	11.40-11.85	11.00-11.40	7.90- 8.55
LAMBS:			
Medium to Choice (84 to 92 lbs.)	15.50-17.50	14.75-17.15	14.75-17.15

### HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY of storage holdings of frozen and cured meats on March 1, 1929, as compared with March 1, 1928, and average holdings on that date for the last five years (in pounds):

Commodity	March 1, 1929	March 1, 1928	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef	67,457,000	44,017,000	66,908,000
Cured beef*	21,305,000	19,732,000	25,147,000
Lamb and mutton	3,251,000	4,020,000	3,181,000
Frozen pork	290,805,000	264,043,000	198,462,000
Dry salt pork*	179,514,000	160,609,000	146,983,000
Pickled pork*	474,362,000	461,264,000	436,731,000
Miscellaneous	91,216,000	71,707,000	73,895,000
Totals	1,127,910,000	1,025,392,000	951,307,000
Lard	174,768,000	121,082,000	98,973,000

\*Cured or in process of cure.



## LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

**A**PPENDED ARE TABLES showing receipts, shipments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-seven markets for the month of February, 1929, compared with February, 1928, and for the two months ending February, 1929 and 1928:

## RECEIPTS

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Cattle*	811,100	1,045,149	1,967,672	2,317,545
Calves	380,388	470,715	858,612	969,340
Hogs	3,921,568	5,267,150	8,983,792	10,572,990
Sheep	1,542,761	1,669,473	3,418,441	3,374,132

## TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Cattle*	300,193	416,909	723,981	930,226
Calves	104,655	134,908	241,647	281,805
Hogs	1,502,488	1,809,737	3,366,551	3,659,228
Sheep	682,828	729,464	1,519,986	1,434,407

## STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Cattle*	105,908	174,757	265,072	390,053
Calves	11,539	19,316	30,343	37,698
Hogs	49,050	75,397	95,677	152,868
Sheep	114,629	101,064	302,284	217,441

## LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Cattle*	509,629	618,729	1,222,429	1,333,354
Calves	277,423	342,159	622,083	707,965
Hogs	2,405,584	3,456,834	5,599,501	6,899,505
Sheep	839,192	945,409	1,878,815	1,939,572

\*Exclusive of calves.

†Including stockers and feeders.

## WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED MEATS

Monday, April 1, 1929

## FRESH BEEF AND VEAL

STEERS (700 lbs. up):	CHICAGO	BOSTON	NEW YORK
Choice	\$19.50-20.50	\$20.50-21.00	\$20.50-21.50
Good	18.50-19.50	19.50-20.50	19.50-20.50
STEERS (550 to 700 lbs.):			
Choice	20.00-21.50		21.00-22.00
Good	19.00-20.00		19.50-20.50
STEERS (500 lbs. up):			
Medium	18.00-18.50	18.50-19.50	18.50-19.50
YEARLING STEERS (300 to 550 lbs.):			
Choice	21.00-22.50		21.00-23.00
Good	20.00-21.00		19.50-21.00
Medium	10.00-20.00		
COWS:			
Good	16.50-18.00	17.50-18.50	17.00-18.00
Medium	15.50-16.50	17.00-17.50	16.00-17.00
Common	15.00-15.50	16.50-17.00	15.00-16.00
VEALERS:			
Choice	23.00-25.00	25.00-28.00	25.00-28.00
Good	21.00-23.00	22.00-25.00	22.00-24.00
Medium	18.00-20.00	18.00-22.00	19.00-21.00
Common	15.00-18.00	15.00-18.00	16.00-18.00

## FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON

SPRING LAMBS:			
Good to Choice			\$34.00-38.00
LAMBS (38 lbs. down):			
Choice	\$31.00-32.00	\$30.00-31.00	31.00-32.00
Good	30.00-31.00	29.00-30.00	30.00-31.00
Medium	28.00-30.00		28.00-30.00
Common	26.00-28.00		27.00-28.00
LAMBS (39 to 45 lbs.):			
Choice	30.00-32.00	29.00-30.00	30.00-31.00
Good	29.00-30.00	28.00-29.00	29.00-30.00
Medium	28.00-29.00	27.00-28.00	28.00-29.00
LAMBS (46 to 55 lbs.):			
Choice	28.00-29.00	27.00-28.00	29.00-30.00
Good	27.00-28.00	26.00-28.00	28.00-29.00
MUTTON (Ewes, 70 lbs. down):			
Good	20.00-22.00	20.00-22.00	20.00-22.00
Medium	18.00-20.00	18.00-20.00	18.00-20.00
Common	16.00-18.00	16.00-18.00	16.00-18.00
LOINS:			

## FRESH PORK CUTS

8-10 lb. av.	\$24.00-26.00	\$23.00-25.00	\$24.00-26.00
10-12 lb. av.	23.00-25.00	23.00-25.00	23.00-25.00
12-15 lb. av.	21.00-23.00	21.00-23.00	21.00-23.00
16-22 lb. av.	19.00-20.00	17.50-20.00	18.00-21.00

## CONTROL ABORTION CALF LOSS!

**WHY** let abortion rob you of your calves? Thousands of dairymen, farmers and breeders have proven the merit of Germatone for eight years. Simply mix with salt. Cattle treat themselves at slight cost.

\$5.00 size treats 120 cows 90 days.  
\$1.50 trial size treats 10 cows 90 days.  
Results guaranteed. Free booklet explains fully. Write today.

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439 Lincoln St.

Denver, Colo.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INDIAN FIELD SERVICE  
FT. LAPWAI INDIAN AGENCY  
LAPWAI, IDAHO

Feb. 20, 1929.

The Denver Mud Co., Inc.,  
425 Lincoln Street,  
Denver, Colo.

Gentlemen:

We are pleased to advise you that we have used Germ-a-Tone for our dairy animals for the past four years. We have a herd of high grade Holsteins, having used highly bred registered bulls for many years. We are milking thirty-three head at this time. This dairy is maintained for the benefit of the Ft. Lapwai Indian Tubercular Sanatorium conducted by the Government.

We formerly experienced considerable calving trouble from retention of the after-birth, but our dairymen reports that this trouble has entirely disappeared and he attributes the improved health condition of the herd to the use of your product.

Very respectfully,

*W. J. Schuchman*  
W. J. Schuchman,  
Superintendent



## LIVE-STOCK MARKET QUOTATIONS

Monday, April 1, 1929

## CATTLE AND CALVES

STEERS:	KANSAS CITY	OMAHA	DENVER
Choice (1,300 to 1,500 lbs.)	\$12.75-13.75	\$12.75-13.75	.....
Good	12.60-12.75	11.75-12.75	.....
Choice (1,100 to 1,300 lbs.)	12.75-14.25	13.00-14.00	\$12.60-13.25
Good	12.25-13.25	12.25-13.25	11.10-12.60
Choice (950 to 1,100 lbs.)	13.25-14.25	13.25-14.25	13.10-13.60
Good	12.25-13.50	12.75-13.50	11.40-13.10
Medium (800 lbs. up)	11.25-12.25	11.50-12.75	10.25-11.40
Common	9.50-11.25	9.00-11.50	8.65-10.25
YEARLING STEERS:			
Choice (750 to 950 lbs.)	13.50-14.50	13.50-14.50	.....
Good	12.25-13.50	12.75-13.75	11.65-13.20
HEIFERS:			
Choice (850 lbs. down)	12.25-13.75	12.50-13.50	11.65-12.60
Good	11.25-12.75	11.75-12.50	10.50-11.80
Common to Medium	8.00-11.50	8.25-11.75	7.85-10.85
Choice (850 lbs. up)	11.00-13.00	11.00-12.75	11.00-12.15
Good	10.00-12.00	9.75-11.75	10.10-11.65
Medium	8.50-11.25	8.50-11.25	9.10-10.50
COWS:			
Choice	10.00-11.00	10.00-11.00	9.50-10.35
Good	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	8.50- 9.50
Common to Medium	7.25- 9.00	7.25- 9.00	6.85- 8.50
Low Cutters and Cutters	5.25- 7.25	5.75- 7.25	4.85- 6.85
BULLS:			
Good to Choice	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	8.15- 9.00
Cutters to Medium	7.00- 9.00	7.25- 9.00	6.75- 8.15
CALVES:			
Medium to Choice (500 lbs. down)	9.50-12.50	9.50-12.50	9.50-13.00
Culls to Common	6.50- 9.50	6.50- 9.50	5.75- 9.50
VEALERS:			
Good to Choice	10.50-13.50	12.00-14.50	13.50-16.00
Medium	9.00-10.50	11.00-12.00	11.50-13.50
Culls to Common	6.00- 9.00	6.00-11.00	6.50-11.50
FEEDERS AND STOCKERS—			
STEERS:			
Good to Choice (800 lbs. up)	11.50-12.75	11.75-13.25	10.75-12.50
Common to Medium	9.25-11.75	9.25-11.75	8.00-10.75
Good to Choice (800 lbs. down)	11.75-13.75	12.00-13.75	11.10-13.10
Common to Medium	9.00-11.75	9.00-12.00	8.10-11.10
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice	9.75-11.25	9.50-11.00	9.50-10.75
Common to Medium	7.50- 9.75	7.75- 9.50	7.75- 9.50
COWS:			
Good to Choice	7.75- 8.75	7.50- 8.75	8.00- 8.75
Common to Medium	6.75- 7.75	6.25- 7.50	6.75- 8.00
CALVES:			
Good to Choice	12.00-14.00	11.25-14.00	11.00-13.25
Medium	10.00-12.00	8.75-11.25	9.00-11.00

## HOGS

Heavy Weights, Medium to Choice	\$10.75-11.40	\$11.00-11.50	\$10.25-11.25
Medium Weights, Medium to Choice	10.85-11.55	11.15-11.50	10.75-11.25
Light Weights, Medium to Choice	10.75-11.55	10.65-11.50	10.60-11.25
Light Lights, Medium to Choice	10.25-11.35	10.25-11.35	10.00-11.00
Packing Sows	9.50-10.50	10.25-10.75	9.25-10.00
Slaughter Pigs, Medium to Choice	9.25-10.65	.....	.....
Feeder and Stocker Pigs, Med. to Ch.	9.25-10.65	9.50-10.50	.....

## SHEEP AND LAMBS

LAMBS:			
Good to Choice (84 lbs. down)	\$15.50-16.60	\$16.25-17.00	\$15.50-16.50
Good to Choice (84 to 92 lbs.)	15.50-16.60	16.00-17.00	15.40-16.50
Medium (92 lbs. down)	14.50-15.50	15.25-16.25	14.50-15.50
Medium to Choice (92 to 100 lbs.)	14.50-16.40	15.25-16.75	14.50-16.40
Culls to Common (all weights)	10.00-14.50	11.25-15.25	10.50-14.50
YEARLING WETHERS:			
Medium to Choice (110 lbs. down)	10.50-14.50	11.00-14.75	.....
EWES:			
Medium to Choice (120 lbs. down)	8.50-10.50	8.50-11.00	.....
Medium to Choice (120 to 150 lbs.)	8.25-10.25	8.25-10.75	.....
Medium to Choice (all weights)	4.00- 8.50	4.00- 8.50	.....
FEEDING LAMBS:			
Good to Choice	.....	14.50-16.25	.....
Medium	.....	13.00-14.50	.....

## HIDES SHOW SIGNS OF REVIVAL

J. E. P.

HIDES HAVE STAGED A "COME-BACK" since the recent slump, but there is nothing encouraging about the immediate future. Undoubtedly the low spot has been uncovered. The why and wherefore of the disastrous break, which undoubtedly affected the fat-cattle market adversely, has not been explained, except that making this market the dumping-ground for the surplus hides and skins of the entire world was the responsible factor.

Late in March packers were not offering hides, and the independent packer holding was closely sold up, creating a strong statistical condition. Country hides have shared in the recent advance, that market going on a firm footing. Early April quotations follow:

## PACKER HIDES

	Cents per lb.
Spread native steers	17 -17½
Heavy native steers	14½
Heavy native cows	14½
Heavy Texas steers	14
Light native cows	15
Colorado steers	13½
Light Texas steers	13
Branded cows	13½

## COUNTRY HIDES

Heavy cows	12 -12½
Heavy steers	12 -12½
Extremes	15½-16

The tariff furore, pro and con, has subsided; also the hysteria generated in shoemaking circles over the proposition. The attitude of one of the principal packers in opposition to a hide duty created surprise, as beef men were protesting

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 MALCOLM G. WYER, Librarian,  
 Denver Public Library, Denver, Colo.

volubly that the break in hides had put an additional load on beef, thereby increasing sales resistance, which is the last thing needed at this juncture. The break in hides penalized live cattle 50 to 75 cents per cwt.; and it all came out of the feeder's pocket.

## WOOL TRADE IN SOMNOLENT MOOD

J. E. P.

**T**IGHT MONEY may have had something to do with the somnolent condition of the wool market recently. At least a modicum of optimism prevails at eastern concentration points. Demand for goods suitable for woolen mills has been reasonably healthy, scoured wools of half-blood quality selling in Boston at \$1 to \$1.03. Medium scoured wools have sold at 77 to 78 cents, duty paid. Fine combing and Texas wools of average descriptions have sold on a clean basis of \$1 to \$1.05.

Foreign markets are generally strong, Australian bourses firm, New Zealand steady, River Plate steadier than recently, and Yorkshire confident. In the West, activity is lacking, buyers and sellers being several cents per pound apart in their ideas of values.

Current domestic business is mainly on fine wools, although carpet wools are reasonably active. While values have not improved, there has been no evidence or suggestion of depreciation, indicating a healthy undertone. Mills have bid

2 or 3 cents below trading prices, but this has not produced wool. The evident purpose of this procrastination is either depression of values until the bulk of the new clip is out of growers' hands, or repressing any latent tendency of prices to advance.

All interests are awaiting development of prices calculated to start trading in new-clip wools. An opinion exists that the cheapest wools of the clip will be bought early, so that, after the ice is actually broken, brisk trading may be expected. Dealers are reluctant to take the buying field, however, as such action would disclose the strategic strength of growers and country dealers with wool accumulations. Tariff-increase propositions do not receive consideration.

Actually there is no good reason for pessimism concerning future prices. Business during the first quarter of 1929 was of considerably heavier volume than for the same period last year, especially with respect to February and March, and dealers are, with few exceptions, confident of improvement the moment any considerable quantity of new-clip wool becomes available for trading purposes. Any buying movement would start a wave of speculation.

Much of the prognostication emanating from wool-trading and manufacturing circles is grotesquely absurd. Given credence, it is calculated to create an impression that the civilized races are reverting to a condition of nudity, and that the clothing business is doomed. This anvil-croaking chorus is seasonal, however, and taken for what it is worth. When the trade talks of price readjustment, it means lower prices, the desire being father to the thought. Market sentiment is always bearish; but that does not necessarily mean depreciation. In fact, the unexpected has a confirmed habit of happening.

## FEEDSTUFFS

**C**OTTONSEED CAKE, of 43 per cent protein content, at Texas points, on April 3 was selling at \$42. The hay market, April 1, at Kansas City, was as follows: Alfalfa—No. 1 extra leafy, \$33.50 to \$35; No. 2 extra leafy, \$31.50 to \$33; No. 1, \$27.50 to \$31; No. 2 leafy, \$24 to \$27; No. 2, \$19.50 to \$23.50; No. 3 leafy, \$16 to \$19; No. 3, \$12.50 to \$15.50; sample, \$8 to \$12; prairie—No. 1, \$14 to \$14.50; No. 2, \$11 to \$13.50; No. 3, \$9 to \$10.50; sample, \$7 to \$8.50; timothy—No. 1, \$18 to \$19; No. 2, \$16.50 to \$17.50; No. 3, \$15 to \$16; sample, \$12 to \$14.50; timothy clover-mixed—No. 1, \$17.50 to \$18; No. 2, \$16 to \$17; No. 3, \$10.50 to \$15.50.

## NOTES FROM FOREIGN LANDS

### Government Slaughter-House for Uruguay

The government of Uruguay has decided to construct a national slaughter-house. The new abattoir will have a monopoly on killing animals for local consumption, and later on may consider exportation, although it is not intended to enter into competition with other freezing establishments.

### Insulated Containers for Transport of Meat

A new development in meat transportation has been brought out by a British railway. Containers are constructed to carry a load of three and a half tons. All walls and doors are insulated with cork, and the floors with asbestos sheets. The fittings are air-tight, so that an even temperature is maintained. The containers are built so that they can be lowered into the hold of a ship and loaded with meat from the vessel's cold storage. They are then transferred by cranes to railroad cars on motor trucks.

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# TRADE REVIEW

## FOREIGN COMMERCE IN LIVE-STOCK PRODUCTS

**G**REATLY INCREASED IMPORTS of live cattle, fresh beef, canned meats, and cattle hides marked our foreign trade in live stock and its products in 1928. In cattle the increase was 20 per cent over 1927; in fresh beef, 43 per cent; in canned meat, 55 per cent; in cattle hides, 17 per cent; and in all hides and skins, 13 per cent. Complete figures for the two years follow:

### LIVE ANIMALS

(Numbers)

#### EXPORTS

	1928	1927
Cattle .....	11,267	18,679
Hogs .....	54,174	42,270
Sheep .....	4,164	22,926
Horses .....	18,355	10,016
Mules, asses and burros .....	17,993	19,722
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>105,953</b>	<b>113,613</b>

#### IMPORTS

Cattle .....	534,804	445,345
Sheep .....	21,802	28,598
Horses .....	3,286	2,579
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>559,892</b>	<b>476,522</b>
Hogs (pounds) .....	3,619,887	35,883,850

### MEATS

(Pounds)

#### IMPORTS

	1928	1927
Beef, fresh .....	50,181,414	35,081,622
Veal, fresh .....	8,139,030	7,492,317
Pork, fresh .....	7,811,258	14,524,235
Mutton, fresh .....	826,368	494,451
Lamb, fresh .....	2,441,649	2,151,226
Other fresh meats .....	5,787,183	5,211,871
Canned meats .....	55,155,841	35,669,361
Beef and veal, cured .....	8,469,038	.....
Ham and bacon .....	2,539,502	.....
Pork, pickled .....	2,515,580	.....
Other prepared meats .....	15,133,348	23,168,007
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>159,000,211</b>	<b>123,793,090</b>

### HIDES AND SKINS

(Pounds)

#### EXPORTS

	1928	1927
Cattle hides .....	24,210,696	37,565,175
Calf skins .....	12,078,057	15,082,809
Sheep and goat skins .....	1,939,323	1,976,800
Others .....	8,213,719	9,367,715
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>46,441,795</b>	<b>63,992,499</b>

#### IMPORTS

Cattle hides .....	276,175,123	237,233,752
Buffalo hides .....	5,782,845	4,386,469
Kip and calf skins .....	45,335,725	44,070,322
Horse, colt, ass hides .....	13,461,990	10,876,137
Sheep and lamb skins .....	63,191,979	57,348,639
Goat and kid skins .....	90,803,631	81,303,690
Kangaroo skins .....	858,285	876,299
Deer and elk skins .....	2,455,893	2,492,605
Others .....	7,956,030	8,555,214
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>506,021,501</b>	<b>447,143,127</b>

### WOOL

(Pounds)

#### EXPORTS

	1928	1927
Wool and mohair .....	484,735	322,919

#### IMPORTS

Wool and mohair .....	244,629,875	267,286,735
-----------------------	-------------	-------------

### GRAINS

(Bushels)

	December		Twelve Months Ending December	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Barley .....	6,549,000	3,425,000	54,377,000	37,973,000
Malt .....	361,000	249,000	3,279,000	2,869,000
Corn .....	6,187,000	1,108,000	25,799,000	13,428,000
Oats .....	984,000	376,000	10,481,000	10,053,000
Rye .....	489,000	1,259,000	14,499,000	35,941,000
Wheat .....	7,641,000	6,917,000	92,666,000	168,307,000
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>22,211,000</b>	<b>13,334,000</b>	<b>201,101,000</b>	<b>268,571,000</b>

## EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS

**E**XPORTS OF MEAT, meat products, and animal fats from the United States for the month of February and the two months ending February, 1929, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1928, were as below (in pounds):

### BEEF PRODUCTS

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Beef, fresh .....	298,020	192,946	581,810	389,879
Beef, pickled .....	695,714	529,922	1,429,313	1,145,863
Beef, canned .....	279,483	212,123	381,569	373,706
Oleo oil .....	4,608,089	4,629,362	9,353,541	8,968,899
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>5,881,306</b>	<b>5,564,353</b>	<b>11,746,233</b>	<b>10,878,347</b>

### PORK PRODUCTS

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Pork, fresh .....	888,407	1,389,406	2,546,652	2,643,133
Pork, pickled .....	4,585,485	2,602,822	8,176,654	4,746,284
Bacon .....	11,286,136	10,921,944	24,300,610	22,582,156
Cumberland sides .....	340,022	264,169	590,982	690,416
Hams and shoulders .....	7,679,682	10,976,121	18,866,688	20,980,989
Wiltshire sides .....	205,832	33,211	422,233	154,169
Sausage, canned .....	136,796	228,488	327,554	446,361
Lard .....	65,923,502	79,871,799	156,060,619	150,581,509
Lard compounds .....	286,907	569,229	608,143	1,053,553
Neutral lard .....	1,972,738	2,576,532	4,097,370	4,670,425
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>93,305,507</b>	<b>109,433,721</b>	<b>215,997,505</b>	<b>208,498,995</b>

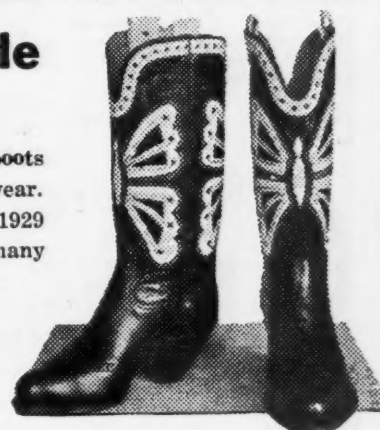
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# FOREIGN

## LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALASIA

BY A. C. MILLS

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, February 16, 1929.

**F**EBRUARY USUALLY WITNESSES the opening of the frozen-beef export season in Queensland, and, though the freezing-works are rather late in starting killings, it is anticipated that the bulk of those in the south and central divisions of the state will be put into commission before the end of the month. The recent rains over the coastal areas and in the north give promise of moderate supplies of fat cattle being available, but it is doubtful if last season's aggregate of 347,855 will be exceeded, even if reached.

Brandings in 1925 and 1926, from which herds this year's meat will come, were fairly satisfactory, but drought losses were so considerable, and calvings so light in the following years, that the smaller herds may encourage graziers to hold, especially if prices are not high. Unfortunately, prospects in the latter respect are not over bright. True, current British quotations for Australian beef are a fraction above those of this date last year, but, so far as can be seen at the moment, there is little in immediate prospects to warrant the belief that the general average will be any better than in 1928.

I am advised on good authority that the export companies operating in the Brisbane district, south Queensland, are now buying freezer bullocks in the country on the basis of \$6.60 per cwt. delivered, for mobs showing a large proportion of firsts. These would be for delivery this month or early March; for it is acknowledged that a somewhat higher rate has been paid for special lines for immediate slaughter. The latter are to fill urgent contract commitments, while for the same purpose cattle have lately been bought in the metropolitan sale-yards at from \$7.68 to \$8.16 per cwt. When the

orders are filled, the yard price is almost certain to drop back to something more in line with the country rates and the current oversea parity. Up to the present, yardings of suitable cattle have been small.

Seasonal conditions throughout the northern cattle country are still somewhat uncertain. There have been good rains in parts, but the falls have not been sufficiently general to say that the long-continued drought has really broken. February is the critical month in the tropics; for, if we do not get good downpours now, the chances are there will be nothing much until the end of the year, or, at all events, until after the winter; and another winter without adequate feed would about finish most inland graziers. The coastal belt is, generally speaking, fairly well off, having received frequent storms.

Pending a general break in the weather, the store market for cattle is slow—not but that prices are quite firm. Two-year-old steers of Shorthorn-Hereford cross are worth up to \$26 per head, bullocks to \$34, and beef cows to \$26.25. Given an assured season, values would certainly firm, but it is equally certain that it would be extremely difficult to buy young stuff or breeders for stocking up the areas that have been depleted by drought at a reasonable rate. Many of the large cattle runs in western Queensland are bare of stock, and the demand is likely considerably to exceed the available supply.

Conditions in the south of the Commonwealth are fair. The summer has been rather drier than normal, but most of the territory is carrying a good body of dry feed. Unlike the north, the south of Australia looks for its principal rains in the autumn and winter, and there is ample time for these to come to make the position secure. We expect the weather to break about April. Current quotations for prime fat bullocks in the Melbourne market range from \$72.50 to \$80 per head, extra lines run to \$90, and good handy-weights are fetching \$57.50 to \$65. Sydney rates are about \$5 a head lower.

With a view to assisting beef-cattle breeders, and at the same time do a little toward raising the general quality of stock in the state, the Queensland government has decided to pay a subsidy to purchasers of approved bulls in an amount equal to one-half the actual rail freight paid for the transport of such bulls from place of purchase to the holdings where they are to be used. The conditions set down provide that the bulls must be registered in the recognized herd-book of the breed concerned, that they have passed the tuberculin test within six weeks of application for subsidy, and that they are at least twelve months old. Though the subsidy received by the individual purchasers may not be great, the offer indicates a more sympathetic attitude on the part of the government, and as such is very welcome. Cattlemen in Queensland recall that only a few years ago the same government did everything it could to harass breeders, even going so far as to commandeer beef at an absurdly low price to supply city workers, and incidentally voters, with cheap food.

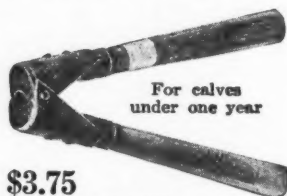
Parts of New Zealand have had an overabundance of rain, with the result that pastures are rank and soppy. This is not conducive to finishing cattle, and probably accounts for relatively small killings of bullocks for the export trade. At the middle of January—the date of the latest return—only a few over 5,000 had been treated by packers since October 1, which was about one-third of the total put through in the corresponding period of 1927-28. Fat steers being scarce, the market is firm, good descriptions selling at up to \$90 in the North Island and to \$100 in the South. In certain cases even higher prices are being paid. These rates, it may be explained, apply to meat for local consumption. Packers are probably not paying more than about \$7.92 per cwt. for their limited purchases.

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# ROUND THE RANGE

## RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK CONDITIONS IN MARCH

**Ranges.**—Most of the ranges in the higher and northern sections were covered with snow during February, which, with cold weather, necessitated heavy feeding of live stock, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its March report. In California and the Southwest, dry, cold weather had held back the growth of new feed. Supplies of hay were short in most of the range country, and it had been necessary to ship in large supplies of cake and feed grains, particularly on the desert sheep ranges in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Nevada, and western Colorado. Western stockmen have had a very expensive winter, with high hay prices and the use of concentrates.

**Cattle.**—Cattle in the western states declined in condition during February, as the result of long, heavy feeding and cold weather. Most of the cattle at the beginning of March, however, were in strong, healthy condition, and only a few areas reported thin cattle. Losses had been light. Cattle in feed-lots had not shown the usual gains, and the returns from fat cattle had generally shown a loss.

**Sheep.**—Sheep on the western ranges had experienced one of the hardest winters in years. On the desert ranges they had been on feed most of the time since early December, which had resulted in a shrink in condition, but losses had not been heavy. In California and the Southwest sheep had not done well, due to dry conditions and late starting of feed. Early lamb losses in the Northwest had been a little heavier than last winter. Generally breeding ewes on the western ranges were not in so good condition as a year ago. A large number of western feeder lambs had been contracted, at prices generally ranging from 11 to 12½ cents.

as that of 1928. As a whole, however, the condition of the crop this year is below average. Weather and feed conditions in most western areas have been unfavorable since the beginning of the

year. Movement to market will be later than in 1928, and the supply of spring lambs up to July 1 will probably be smaller.

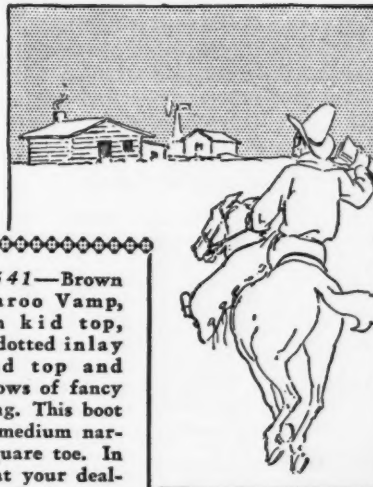


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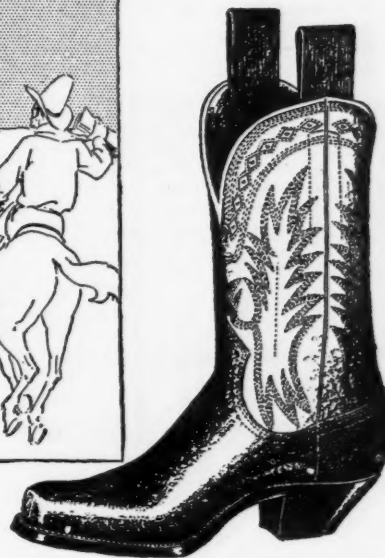
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## CONDITION OF EARLY SPRING LAMBS BELOW AVERAGE

According to reports received by the Department of Agriculture as of March 1, the early lamb crop in the principal early lambing states was about as large

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### FARM POPULATION SMALLEST IN TWENTY YEARS

The farm population of the United States is now the smallest in twenty years, reports the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which estimates it at 27,511,000 persons on January 1, 1929, as compared with a peak of 32,000,000 in 1909. The bureau's figures also show a decrease in farm population during the past year.

### FOR SALE

Feeder lambs and feeder and breeding ewes; stocker steers and stocker cattle. Write for list. **T. L. BENSON**, Commission Dealer, Naylor Hotel Bldg., San Angelo, Texas.

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5,000 heavy-shearing, big-bone, Rambouillet type, coming yearling ewes, delivered out of shearing pens. Stocker cows and stocker steers for prompt and future delivery. Write for prices. **T. L. BENSON**, Land and Live Stock Dealer, Naylor Hotel Building, San Angelo, Texas

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Owner having farm or ranch for sale, send price and best terms.

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**GUNNISON COUNTY STOCK RANCH**, with decreed water rights. Good improvements; range rights for 670 head of cattle—40 per cent in national forests.

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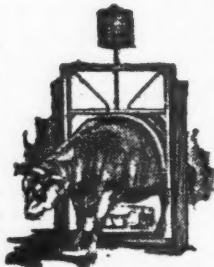
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## What Feeders Say of Producer Pools

**R**IGHT now my Producer Pool calves are on a full feed of shelled corn, oats, cottonseed meal, ensilage, and clover hay," writes Ilo A. Allen, of Eckford, Michigan. "They arrived last December, and I am very proud of them." Mr. Allen is one of the scores of satisfied cattle-feeders who have been buying feeding cattle through the National Producers Feeder Pool.

Many patrons of the Pool agree with C. F. Steigle, of Plainfield, Illinois, who writes, under date of March 21, 1929: "I have no complaints with the Feeder Pool. They have always given me my money's worth, and I would certainly recommend this method of buying feeding cattle to anyone in the feeding business. The service, in my estimation, cannot be improved."

During the past three years this Pool has handled 48,766 cattle direct from the range, and has also delivered 296,193 head of lambs. Both cattle- and sheepmen like the good fresh feeders they have obtained through the National Producers Feeder Pool.

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